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FROM THE ESTATE OF
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LETTERS

FROM

The Hawaiian Islands.

BY THE

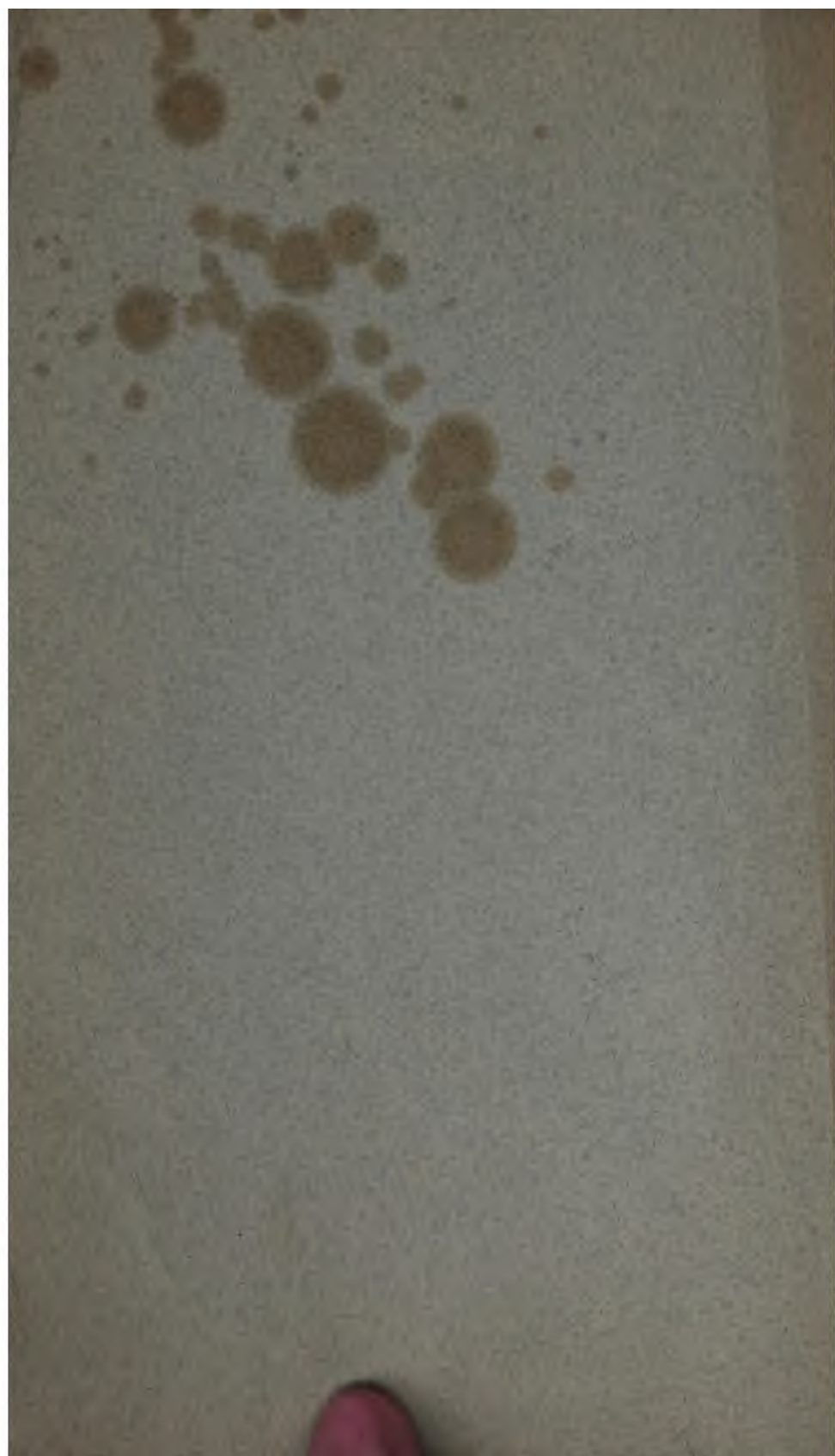
Rev. J. A. Zahm, C. S. C.;

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, INDIANA.



NOTRE DAME, IND. :
UNIVERSITY PRESS,
1887.



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*From the estate of
Lawrence Bond*

THESE letters, now reprinted in pamphlet form in answer to numerous calls for them from various parts of the country, written for *The Rocky Mountain News* last Summer, are republished as they originally appeared, and are merely *fruits* of a portion of a pleasantly spent vacation, and nothing

J. A. Z.

LETTERS FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

PUNALUU, HAWAII, H. I., July 24, 1886.

THE great attraction of the Hawaiian islands, or, as they are often improperly called, the Sandwich islands, is the great volcano of Kilauea, the largest active volcano in the world. Few foreigners visit these islands without making a pilgrimage to this sanctuary of Pele, located on the southeastern part of Hawaii, the largest island of the group composing this ocean kingdom, and the one from which the kingdom takes its name. Pele is the titular goddess of Kilauea, and was one of the most powerful and most dreaded deities of the old Hawaiian mythology. But although idolatry was abolished in the early part of the century—even before the arrival of the missionaries, and notwithstanding the fact that the natives have given up their heathen notions and practices, Pele is not forgotten. Like Jupiter, Neptune, Venus, and other divinities of Greek and Roman mythology, Pele still occupies a prominent place in the songs, legends, and folklore of the people.

UNGROUNDLED FEARS.

Last March the scientific world was startled by the announcement that the bottom had fallen out of the crater of Kilauea, and the people of the islands began to deplore the loss of what was undoubtedly their chief attraction for tourists. On consulting the records, however, scientists discovered that similar subsidences of the active part of the volcano were periodic and quite common, and that there was every reason to believe that Kilauea would sooner or later be as active as ever. A short time ago—the latter part of May and the early part of June—it was observed that Pele had again lighted her fires, and the inhabitants of the islands rejoiced in the thought that her old-time pyrotechnic exhibitions would soon be renewed. On my

arrival in Honolulu I could get very little satisfactory information on the subject, and I therefore determined to come and examine for myself. Accordingly, I arranged to take my departure from Honolulu yesterday, and here I am in a cosy, homelike little hotel on the seashore, ready for the buck-board and mule that are to take me to the summit of the great volcano.

COMFORTABLE QUARTERS.

But I am in no hurry to leave the place where I am now stopping. Although the village is small, there are many things



HARBOR OF HONOLULU.

here to interest and delight. The massive breakers which continually lash the hard, lava-lined shore, only a few rods from where I am now sitting; the luxuriant tropical vegetation which is always in sight, and the laughter-loving troops of native children who run up and down the beach, are objects of special admiration and study.

Even the little garden in front of my room is more than enough to arrest one's attention. It is certainly a surprise to find in this far off land so much care and taste displayed

as one sees in this little spot. Here on the rough lava rock, rich soil, brought from a distance, has been placed, and over this the visitor now finds a greensward that pleases me more than anything of the kind that I remember ever seeing elsewhere. The whole garden is covered with a soft, elastic, compact carpet of *maniana*, or Bermuda grass of purest green, bordered by luxuriant fuchsias, geraniums, roses and morning-glories that would elicit exclamations of admiration from even the most indifferent observer.

But everything in these islands is interesting to the visitor, as nearly everything is new and different from what one would see in any other part of the world. The scenery, the people, their language, manners and customs, all have the fascination of novelty and singularity. So much is this the case that I have concluded to jot down for the benefit of your readers a brief account of a few of the many things one will see in making the trip from Honolulu to this place. I shall tell you about the volcano after I have been able to examine it personally, which I hope to do in a few days.

TRIP TO THE VOLCANO.

At 10 o'clock a. m. yesterday the steamer A. G. Hall, of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation company, was ready to leave her wharf, having on board a goodly number of passengers for various points along the leeward coasts of the islands to the southward. The captain had very kindly reserved me a state-room on deck on the windward side of the vessel, so that I was enabled to make the voyage with the greatest comfort possible.

But before starting from Honolulu, which, by the way, has one of the most beautiful harbors in the world, small though it be, one may observe a number of strange and interesting sights. What first and most impresses one is the large crowd that has gathered on the wharf and that has congregated on the deck of the vessel, where they remain until the moment of her departure. There one may see the most cosmopolitan crowd under the sun. There are Kanakas (the name here for natives), Americans, Europeans, Chinese, Japanese, Spaniards, people from Mexico, Chili and Peru, Portuguese, South Sea Islanders, and others, that constitute as motley a throng as one could hope to see anywhere in the world. But it is not on this occasion only that such a crowd has assembled here. Every time a vessel arrives or departs at Honolulu, or at any other port in the islands, the whole populace seem to turn out to welcome or bid farewell to the voyagers. I have seen the king and members of the royal family and the Cabinet standing on the wharf or mingling with the masses on deck,

without their presence evoking any surprise or comment. It is such a common thing for them to be seen there with the multitude that it is taken as a matter of course.

A SINGULAR CUSTOM.

But it is not simply the assembled multitudes that attract one's attention. One will notice that every one, or nearly every one, is decked with *leis* or garlands, and festoons of leaves and flowers. This is a custom peculiar, I believe, to the people of these islands. Friends and relatives coming to say good-bye throw these *leis* over the heads and around the necks of those about to depart, and I have often seen travelers literally covered with *leis* of the most fragrant flowers and leaves. These *leis* are made from sweet-scented roses, red and white alternating; from the crimson ohia, the odorous maile, a species of smilax, the flaming hibiscus, the lovely gardenia, the orange pandanus, the yellow amaranth, the great passion flower, and many flowers equally fragrant and beautiful. The combinations of green ferns and leaves, with red, crimson, purple and yellow flowers, show that the natives have an eye for harmony of color that is truly remarkable. Go where you will and you will find the islanders indulging their taste for wreaths and garlands; but it is when they are about to embark for a voyage, long or short, it matters not, that they use them in the greatest profusion. Then, too, they use necklaces made of the odoriferous seed-pods of the mohikana, which, when dry and hard, retain their perfume permanently. The drupes of the pandanus, or screw-pine, are also employed for the same purpose. Indeed, so fond are the Hawaiians of bright flowers and sweet odors that we can scarcely find them without some of the many perfume-giving flowers or leaves that abound in great variety in every part of the kingdom.

A TASTE FOR MUSIC.

And the Hawaiians are, too, a particularly music-loving people. Those who were in San Francisco two years ago, on the occasion of the visit of the Knight Templars to that city, will remember how every one was surprised and charmed by the music of the Royal Hawaiian band, which had gone to the Pacific coast for the occasion. So fond are the people here of the music afforded by this organization that they always congregate in crowds whenever it is announced to play. One of the most pleasant recollections of my visit to "the islands" shall be the music I heard executed by this same band on the wharf at Honolulu, on the occasion of the

departure of one of the larger steamers that frequent that port,—I say one of my most pleasant recollections, because whenever I think of Hawaiian music I always call to mind the charming musical entertainments it was my privilege to be present at in several of the schools of the islands, and notably the Academy of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts, and the College of St. Louis, conducted by the Brothers of Mary, in Honolulu. The music, both vocal and instrumental, executed by the children in these schools was of a high order, and evinced the possession by the young performers of marked musical talent. Indeed, I can say truthfully that the band and the orchestra of St. Louis College would compare most favorably with those found in any college in the United States. Both the band and the orchestra in this institution count about forty instruments each, and the majority of the performers in both organizations are natives. But they play with a facility and an expression that equally surprises and delights the hearer, and proves beyond cavil or contradiction that they are born musicians. But these are only instances illustrative of the musical tastes and talent of the natives wherever you find them. They are all a musical and music-loving people.

A COSMOPOLITAN CROWD.

But one need not go beyond the deck of an inter-island steamer to find new and strange objects and scenes. The whole trip from the capital to this place afforded a most interesting study to me. The “deck passengers,” so called because they remain on the open deck during their entire voyage, first arrested my attention. There were something over a hundred of them, huddled together on the deck towards the prow of the vessel, and a more mixed or picturesque looking crowd it would be difficult to find anywhere. Almond-eyed Chinese, and representatives from various islands of the South Pacific, lying on tapas, or mats, surrounded with their stores of provisions for the voyage, and their pet dogs, cats and birds, were a rare combination of the picturesque and ludicrous. Each Kanaka had his or her calabash of *poi*, and dried fish, and was liberally supplied, in most cases, with mangoes, bananas, pine apples, melons, and other fruits. Fruits, however, could be gotten at any of the various places we stopped at along the coast, as on the approach of the steamer some of the natives always came out in their little canoes, bringing with them an abundance of eatables for those on board who wished to purchase. Among such eatables were live shrimps, sea-urchins, and fish just taken out of the water. The fish that seemed to be most relished was one that resembled a mackerel, called *opelu*. I have seen the natives take these fish

while yet alive, and, after removing the entrails and sprinkling a little pepper and salt on what remained, eat it perfectly raw. And this is not a rare thing among them; on the contrary, raw fish, whether fresh or dried, is considered by them a luxury. Should you express any surprise at their peculiar taste, they will tell you that it is no worse to eat raw fish than raw oysters. I have even found many white people residing in the islands who have become accustomed to eating raw fish, and who declare that it is both wholesome and palatable.

THE NATIONAL DISH.

I have spoken of *poi*. But what is it? some of your readers may inquire. Briefly, it is the Hawaiian's staff of life. Without *poi* a Hawaiian would not find life worth living. Give him *poi*, and with it an occasional allowance of raw fish as a dessert, no matter what may happen, he is happy. He will take it three times a day, and oftener, if he can get it, and every day in the year, and always with equal if not increased relish. Indeed, to judge from the way the older ones devour it, and to observe the epicurean gratification they evidently experience while doing so, one would imagine that their relish for it was intensified, not simply in proportion to the number of times they had partaken of it, but in the ratio of a constantly increasing geometrical progression. This may be a slight exaggeration, but I think it would be difficult to find a Kanaka who would not be disposed to admit that the statement, just as it stands, has the best of foundation in fact.

Poi is made from the root of the *kalo* or *arum esculentum*. The root, which is about the size and shape of a large beet, is baked in an underground oven, and then pounded in a hollow stone or board, and mixed with water until it has the consistency of printers' paste. It is next laid aside for a few days and allowed to ferment. When ready for use, it has a slightly sour taste, and a pink or lilac color. The taste is not unlike that of sour book-binders' paste, and is anything but palatable when one first essays to make a meal of it. But a liking for it, as for almost anything else, is easily acquired. So much is this the case that *poi* is a favorite dish with many foreigners here, and nearly all of them eat it to a greater or less extent.

AN ACQUIRED ART.

Eating *poi* according to native fashion is quite an art, and requires considerable manual, or rather digital dexterity. The index finger, or this and the second finger together, are dipped into the pasty mass, when it is quickly and deftly twirled around them and

then elevated above the mouth and allowed to trickle down the throat in a way that simply astonishes any one but a born Kanaka. One unaccustomed to eating it this way would, in attempting to do so, inevitably daub it all over his face. It is one of the native arts that requires considerable practice before proficiency is at-



GATHERING COCOANUTS.

tained. The safer way for the unpracticed hand is to use a fork or spoon. When a fork is used, the *poi*, which is quite viscous, is twisted around the tines of the fork, and thus it is conveyed to the mouth without any of the risks consequent on eating it in Kanaka fashion.

I have used the word Kanaka quite often, but I must state that

it is a term which, although universally employed, is incorrectly applied. *Kanaka* in the Hawaiian language means man, but it was the word used by the whalers, who frequented these islands years ago, to signify native, and as such it is still retained.

THE LANGUAGE OF CHILDREN.

The language of the islanders is most interesting, and I have experienced much pleasure in hearing it spoken. It is pre-eminently a language of vowels, and this characteristic is in striking contrast with the harsh guttural, sibilant, consonant dialects of northern Europe. The vowels are far more numerous in the Hawaiian than in the Italian language. The latter, it has been said, is the language of birds. The former can, with equal propriety, be called the language of children. It is simple and easy in its construction, and most euphonious and agreeable to the ear. In the Hawaiian language proper, there are only twelve letters, five of which are vowels. The vowels have the same sound as in Latin, and these sounds are invariable. The natives have such an aversion to consonants that there is only one word in the language that tolerates two together—the word “Kristo”—Christ. Every word and every syllable must terminate with a vowel, and no syllable can have more than one consonant. Thus Denver would be spelt “Denevera,” and Arkins would appear in the orthographic dress of “Arekinesa.” There are frequently long words, and even whole sentences, made up entirely of vowels. The Hawaiian word for truth, for instance, is *oiaio*; *aoa* means “side”; *e i ae oe ia io* signifies, “Speak thou to him there.” And yet, with all these vowels, there are no elisions in conversation. On the contrary, every vowel is distinctly enunciated. When it comes to consonants, the native meets with difficulties. So much is this the case, that the older people find it next to impossible to pronounce a syllable containing two consonants.

RICH IN SPECIFIC TERMS.

The Hawaiian is essentially a concrete language—a language of things, and not of ideas. There are few abstract terms used, as is, indeed, the case in the languages of all primitive peoples. There are, for instance, no words to signify virtue, gratitude, color, nature, or other abstract ideas. But it is wonderfully rich in specific terms, and is consequently a language of poetry and song.

The names of persons and places are always musical, and frequently quite picturesque. The name of the present king, Kalakaua, means “day of battles”; the name of the Queen,

Kapiolani, signifies "captive of heaven." There is a number of places in the islands whose names begin with the word *wai*, "water," all of which have a peculiarly harmonious sound. Like the oriental word *wadi*, or the Indian word *minne*, both of which mean water, the Hawaiian prefix *wai* gives a singularly beautiful sound to the word or words with which it is united. As



PALACE AND ARMY.

the two former, prefixed to other words, give us Wady Mousa, Wady Feran, Minnehaha, Minnetonka, so the latter gives us such musical names as Waioli, Waikiki, Waialele, Wailuku, Waimanu: meaning, respectively, "singing water," "spouting water," "leaping water," "destructive waters, "water bird."

A JAW-BREAKER.

Foreigners find the names, especially of persons, to be sometimes

quite long, and are obliged to practice the pronunciation of the same as much as if they were the names of some new compounds baptized by a German chemist. I will give your readers one as a sample. It was one of the names of the high priestess, Wailele, and I think you can fairly risk offering a chromo to any one of your readers who can at sight fluently and correctly pronounce it. The name in question contains as many letters as the English alphabet, and is written Kalanikaukikilokalaniakua. I would also bespeak a chromo for your typographer if he succeeds the first attempt in printing this word aright.

But what about the trip from Honolulu to this place? some of your readers may impatiently ask. My observations regarding things that I had seen on the steamer, or were suggested by what I have observed elsewhere in the islands, have made me almost forget to say anything about the voyage proper.

The trip, as usually made, requires about thirty-six hours, and the distance made is about two hundred and thirty miles. After leaving the port of Honolulu, and crossing Kaiwi channel, we coasted along the leeward side of the "sorrowful island of Molokai," on which is found

THE LEPER SETTLEMENT OF KALAWAO.

I will say nothing for the present of the inhabitants of this colony, as I hope to return to the subject in a future letter, when I can speak of it more in detail. After leaving Molokai, we crossed a number of other channels separating the island of Maui from the smaller islands of Lanai and Kahoolawe. Maui is celebrated among other things as having the largest crater in the world, that of the extinct volcano Haleakala—house of the sun. The crater of this famous volcano is thirty miles in circumference and two thousand feet in depth, and, after Kilauea, is the place of greatest interest in the kingdom.

We stopped at two or three landings on Maui to put off and take on passengers and freight. The most important and the most interesting of these places was the charming town of Lahaina, formerly the capital of the kingdom. Situated close on to the shore, at the base of a cloud-capped mountain, and embowered among groves of cocoanut, bread-fruit, candlenut, tamarind, mango, banana; and orange, and tinged with the golden, erubescant glow of the setting sun, Lahaina was indeed a spectacle of beauty long to be remembered. When contemplating such scenes, one's mind instinctively reverts to what poets tell us of the Elysian fields, and of the Hesperides, and the Fortunate Isles. Everything is so different here

from what it is in a less tropical clime, and one can form an adequate idea of things as they are only by seeing and enjoying them himself.

A TERROR TO SEA-FARING MEN.

The greater portion of last night was passed in crossing the channel of Alenuihaha, intervening between Maui and Hawaii. This channel, and indeed all the others that we crossed, is remarkable for its roughness and the heavy ocean swell that there obtains. The trials consequent on crossing the English Channel or the German Ocean, something of which all European travelers retain a vivid recollection, are as nothing compared with the agonies endured by those who are compelled to navigate the dread channels that are here the terror of even old sea-faring voyagers. But one forgets the horrors of the night in the enjoyment of the pleasures of the day.

After reaching the coast of Hawaii, we called at several points of minor importance; but the one that possessed the greatest interest for me, and I fancy for most tourists, was Kealakeakua bay, the place that witnessed the death of

THE GREAT NAVIGATOR, CAPTAIN COOK.

There is a monument erected on the spot where he is supposed to have been killed, the exact location being unknown. It consists of a square base, on which rests a truncated, pyramidal shaft. The whole is made of concrete, and rises to a height of about twenty feet. It is within an enclosure made of cannon posts, twelve in number, connected by a heavy iron chain. Some acacia trees stand near the monument, and wave their graceful branches and plume-like leaves over and against it, while to the left, and facing the ocean, are some stately cocoa-palms, and in the rear, but hard by, are other species of palms equally interesting, and on the right are a few small buildings on a foundation of shining black lava. The following epitaph is graved in the shaft, on the side facing the ocean:

IN MEMORY OF
The Great Circumnavigator,
CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, R. N.,
— WHO —
Discovered these Islands on the 18th day of
January, A. D. 1778, and fell near
this spot on the 14th day of
February, A. D. 1779.
This Monument was erected in November, A. D.,
1874, by Some of His Fellow-
Countrymen.

It is remarkable what a number of errors obtain regarding Cook and the discovery of the Sandwich Islands. Any one who knows history knows that these islands were discovered by the Spaniards full two hundred years before the time of Cook's coming, and that they were visited and revisited time and again by Spanish navigators before the year of their so-called discovery by Cook. Lying, as they did, in the direct course of the Spanish galleons on their way from Mexico to Manila and the rich spice islands of the East Indies, these islands could scarcely have been passed without being seen, and we know why their existence was not more generally known than they were prior to the advent of Cook.

NO INDUCEMENTS.

The Spaniards saw on their first visit to the islands that from their very structure—being composed entirely of lava—there was no gold nor silver to be had, and nothing short of rich mineral treasures or rare tropical products could induce the hidalgos of Spain to remain there. It was policy for them to conceal the knowledge of the position of such islands and such a retreat from their naval enemies, who were then very numerous, and from the buccaneers who then infested the seas, and they accordingly made known their discoveries only to the court of Madrid, which, for the reasons named, suppressed the journals of discovery and kept secret all accounts of the voyages made in this part of the world. But their maps and charts and journals, which have been made public since Cook's time, show beyond a doubt that the real discoverers of the islands were the Spaniards, and that their reasons for not making known their discoveries long before were based on motives of self-interest and self-protection.

POPULAR ERRORS.

Again Cook has been lauded to the skies as a Christian navigator, and regarded as a martyr sacrificed to the cause of science and discovery. But any one understanding the facts of the case knows that he was neither the one nor the other. I am willing to give him credit for what he has done. I am ready to acknowledge that he was an enterprising and a successful seaman, but I can not bring myself to admit all his admirers claim for him. Any one conversant with his methods of dealing with the natives during his intercourse with them, can be only surprised that he did not meet with his death at their hands sooner than he did. Cook proved himself to be, while on these islands, one of the most arrogant, selfish, and cruel of men. He came among a peaceful and simple people, with

all the prestige any mortal could have; and had he possessed the Christian and humane spirit of his successor, Vancouver, he could have accomplished wonders for the good of the people. In their simplicity, the natives looked upon their strange visitor as a god, and accordingly paid him divine honors, which Cook did not hesitate to accept. They brought him and his crew the fat of the land, and were always ready to assist him in any way they could. In return for their kindness and hospitality the "Christian navigator" dealt most harshly with his entertainers, robbed them of what they prized most highly, and desecrated their temples—and the very same temples in which, only a short time before, he had permitted them to give unto him all the honors they were capable of rendering to the Supreme Being.

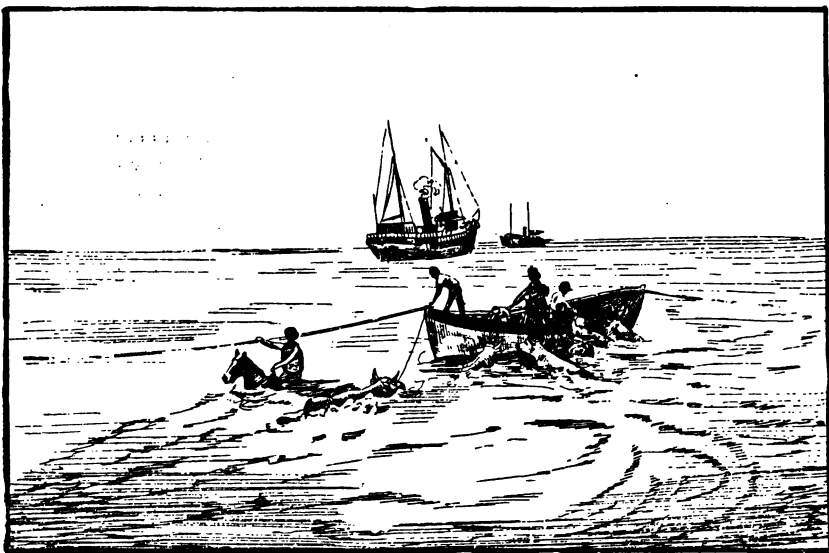
CAPTAIN COOK'S DEATH.

If Cook died at the hands of the natives, it was because he drew his death upon himself, and not because the natives were a savage or blood-thirsty people. They have, I know, been represented as both the one and the other ever since Cook's death, and in a measure in consequence of his death; they have, too, been regarded as cannibals, but it is a matter of history, as far as any positive knowledge exists, that they have ever held cannibalism in abhorrence. Cook's heart, it is true, was eaten by some children, who mistook it for that of a dog, and this circumstance, together with the details of his death, has more than anything else given rise to the report that has ever since been in circulation regarding the anthropophagous disposition of the inhabitants of Hawaii. But authentic history still declares the contrary. Vancouver, and all the others who did not maltreat the natives, always found them a peaceful and tractable people, much the same in this respect as the traveler finds them at the present day—a people amongst whom one can travel in any part of the islands with the utmost security as to person and property.

NOVELTY IN CATTLE SHIPPING.

Near Kealakeakua bay, of which I have been speaking, a number of cattle were taken on board, and the way they were taken from the land to the vessel was both novel and exciting. I fancy very few of your Colorado cowboys, numerous and varied as their accomplishments may be, would be able to do what, in this instance, seemed to be only a pleasant pastime to the natives. As there was no wharf at this place, the usual means of getting cattle on board could not be employed. But, difficult and dangerous as the task

appeared, it was accomplished with but little trouble, and in a comparatively short time. The cattle, to the number of forty or fifty, were all corralled on the beach, and the vessel stood out from the shore a full quarter of a mile or more. A few of the steamer's boats, manned by native sailors, were sent ashore, which was lashed by heavy breakers that threatened destruction to both boats and boatmen, and then the fun began. The boats were quickly connected with the shore by long strong ropes, and Kanaka cowboys, divested of all clothing except a simple *malo* or strip of cloth about their loins, and mounted on well trained steeds, proceeded with a



SHIPPING CATTLE FROM THE PORT OF KEALAKEAKUA.

whoop and a yell to secure their victims and transfer them to the boats in waiting. A graceful throw of the lariat was sufficient to capture one of the herd, and then began the "the tug of war."

UNDER THE SURF.

The cattle all seemed to be afraid of the water, and it was necessary to take them by sheer force from land to boat. Horse and rider would start off through the threatening breakers, and, at times, so heavy was the sea that horse, rider and steer would entirely dis-

appear under the foaming billows, and all would seem to be lost. But it was not so. Kanaka and horse soon emerged from under the surf, and behind them the steer, madly plunging into the briny sea, as if he were bent on committing suicide. But his struggles were useless. He was soon hauled to the boat and tied by the horns to the gunwale, from which he remained dangling in the water until fourteen others were secured in a similar manner. The boat with its cargo was taken to the vessel, and by means of a crane, specially constructed for the purpose, the cattle were easily and speedily taken on board.

FEATS IN THE SEA.

While the cattle were being taken on board in the manner described, the passengers were entertained by the natatorial feats of some native boys. The Hawaiians, it may be premised, are all veritable amphibians, and seem as much at home in the water as on *terra firma*. One of those on board threw a dime into the water, and in plunged a little fellow after it. In a few moments he appeared, with the coin between his teeth. Another dime was cast into the sea at a greater distance away. As quick as a flash the young lad was after it, and shortly he appeared on the surface with the prize as before. The passenger who was thus experimenting with his loose change was puzzled. He could not understand how the money was gotten so readily, when the idea occurred to him that it was probably owing to the thinness of the coin, which prevented it from sinking in the water with any degree of rapidity. He accordingly threw in a quarter, and felt confident that its superior gravity would cause it to fall so rapidly that it would be absolutely impossible for the youngster to get it. But in this he was mistaken. As before, he came to the surface successful, and triumphantly shouted to the astonished experimenter: "Do you wish to throw in any more?" Curiosity was satisfied. No more money was thus thrown away. A man might bankrupt himself in a diversion of this kind, for, as an old seaman observed, "one might throw coins into the sea all day, and the young Kanaka would never miss one of them."

LIKE A MONKEY.

And the way these young fellows can climb! It is simply wonderful. I wished on one occasion to get some cocoanuts from a tree hard by, and called a young native to procure them for me. The tree, from the ground to where the nuts were, was at least sixty or seventy feet high, and about a foot in diameter. The trunk was perfectly smooth from the roots to the tuft of large

plumous leaves at the top. I wanted to test the truth of some of the stories that I had heard about the climbing powers of the natives, and I took out my watch to time the young fellow. When I told him to "go," he started up the tree, monkey-fashion, his feet on the opposite sides of the trunk, and his hands clasping it so as to prevent him from falling backwards. And, would you believe it? from the time he began the ascent until he had reached the ground again, after he had gotten the nuts I desired, was only a minute and a half. There is not one white boy in a hundred who could have gotten up such a tree in an hour and a half, and for most of them the ascent would have been impossible. The young diver just spoken of had shown that he could be as nimble as a fish in the water; the climber I have mentioned had proven that he was as agile as a squirrel when among the trees of the forest.

LAND LEGEND.

Almost every place we have seen along the coast is the subject of legendary lore; and the natives delight in recounting tales of the marvelous and the supernatural that fairly eclipse any of the extravagances that the "Arabian Nights" can boast of.

And then, too, every spot is rich in associations of one kind or another, reminding one in this respect of the historic lands of the Old World. And, like the countries of the Old World, this island kingdom has its ancient ruins and monuments. Here we will see the walls of some old *heiau*, or temple, or there one will come across all that is left of a *Puhonua*, or city of refuge. For, like the Israelites of old, the Hawaiians had their cities of refuge, and for both peoples they served the same purpose. As far as is known, these two nations are the only ones that had such institutions. Did the Hawaiian copy from the Hebrew? Did any members of the "Lost Tribes" find their way hither, bringing with them their ordinances regarding such cities of refuge? It has been supposed so, and yet who knows anything about the matter? We are here confronted with one of those many puzzling questions that are constantly confronting the ethnologist and the historian in their search after knowledge regarding the present and past relations of our race. Future investigation may throw some light on the subject, but as yet we know no more about it than we do about the Round Towers of Ireland or the peculiar structures of the North American Mound-builders.

I have noted, in passing, many other things, a description of which would interest your readers, but as this communication is already much longer than I intended it to be, I will reserve an account of them for some future letter.

VOLCANO HOUSE, KILAUEA, H. I., July 28, 1886.

My last letter was from Punaluu, a small village and landing, twenty-eight miles to the southwest of here. In that letter I promised to send you some account of the great volcano of Kilauea, and, now that I have seen it and made rather an extended examination of it, and its environs, I hasten to make my promise good.

I deem it well, however, to begin where I left off, and tell you something, not only of the volcano, and what is seen in its immediate vicinity, but also how one gets from Punaluu here, and what is to be seen on the way. In a strange and new country like this, where everything is so different from what it is in our own land, the most trivial scenes and incidents possess an interest and an attraction they could not possibly have elsewhere. Even in Punaluu itself, small as it is, one may find many objects to arrest his attention. Conspicuous among these, are the peculiar grass houses of the natives. Many of the houses here, as elsewhere through the islands, are built of wood or stone, and are essentially the same as those in the United States. But the native houses, such as all Hawaiian houses were at the time of the discovery of these islands, are made of a rude framework, and heavily thatched. They are, as a rule, very substantially made, and are quite durable. They possess the advantage, too, of always being cool and comfortable. Like the adobe houses of New and Old Mexico, they seem to be specially adapted to the people and the country in which they are found. If I were to reside permanently in Mexico I should have an adobe building to live in, and if I were to cast my lot for any length of time among the islanders here I should certainly have a grass house as my home. It is so cosy and picturesque that one cannot help taking a fancy to it, and preferring it to the more ornate buildings that are fashioned out of wood, brick and stone. Outside of the grass houses just spoken of, the majority of houses are made of wood and stone. The stone employed is mostly lava; but in the case of the palace, and some of the other larger buildings in Honolulu, they are made of coral rock. There is a number of buildings in Honolulu made of brick, but in these cases the material used was brought from San Francisco. The nature of the earth here, being nothing but disintegrated lava, precludes the possibility of making brick therefrom.

PICTURESQUE GRASS HOUSES.

I would not, however, have you infer from what I have said that the grass houses referred to are the rule, or that they are even very numerous. Some years ago the majority of houses were made of

thatch, but now they are rapidly disappearing, and in a few years more they will be objects of curiosity, even to the natives themselves. Lumber, brought from California, Oregon and the Puget Sound region, can be purchased here at such a low price that the inhabitants find that it is cheaper to build houses of lumber than to make them, as of old, of straw or grass. The consequence is that one of the most interesting and picturesque features of these islands—grass houses or huts—will soon be a thing of the past.

The trip from Punaluu to the summit of the volcano is not a difficult one. It is frequently made by ladies and children, and with comparatively little fatigue. The reason is simple. The crater is only a little over 4000 feet above sea level, and, as a consequence, one does not get into that rare atmosphere that makes the ascent of loftier mountains so difficult. Even the highest point of Kilauea is nearly a thousand feet below Denver, and considerably more than a mile lower than Leadville. The only difficulty attending the ascent of Kilauea is the phenomenally rough roads, or trails, that lead to its summit; but even these have been so improved that no mountain climber could reasonably find fault with them. Indeed, considering the difficulties to be overcome in clearing a trail from the landing to the mountain top, one can only be surprised that it is as good as it is. I have had considerable experience in mountain climbing, and I do not remember ever making an ascent with less fatigue than that consequent on my ascent of Kilauea.

A MOUNTAIN CLIMB.

The morning I left Punaluu I had an early breakfast, and about 7 o'clock my guide informed me that everything was in readiness for our journey. I was conducted to the terminus of a small tramway a few rods from the hotel, and here I found a little car or truck that was to carry me the first five miles up the mountain. This tramway is used for carrying freight and occasional passengers to and from the large sugar mill at Pahala, which is five miles up the mountain. The car, or cars, are generally taken from the landing to the mill by a small locomotive, or dummy. Occasionally the hauling is done by horses or mules. On coming down, however, the grade is so great that both mules and locomotive are dispensed with, and gravitation does the work of conveying the train to the lower terminus. When the car was ready to start I found that the passenger list, which at first was limited to myself, was increased by the addition of two half-caste native ladies and a servant, an almond-eyed Chinaman. These three lived on a ranch a short distance up the mountain side not far from Pahala.

Our car was hauled by five mules hitched tandem, driven by a young, active Portuguese youth, who insisted on running along-side the animals the entire length of the road. Such a long run, always keeping up with the mules, which hurried on in a kind of a dog-trot, and over such a rough road, would have killed an ordinary person, but our sturdy driver seemed to be as fresh and strong at the end of his long race as he was at the beginning.

The little railroad, as remarkable on a small scale for grades and curves as your famous Denver and Rio Grande, passes over a bleak and desolate waste of lava—mostly of the rough, sharp, broken variety, known here as *a-a*. In the distance and towards the coast there were large stretches of the kind called *pahoehoe*. This has a comparatively smooth surface, which is black and shining, and is in marked contrast with the beautiful turquoise blue of the ocean, or the bright green of the sugar plantations that cover the lower belts of the mountain flank.

A RIDE OVER LAVA.

On passing over these hard, rough lava deposits one could scarcely imagine they would ever support any form of vegetation whatever, but the large, luxuriant fields of sugar-cane show that right here is a soil as rich as any in the world. Lava rock is readily decomposed by the action of the elements, and there is then formed a soil that is unequaled in richness, and capable of supporting any form of vegetation whatever. Indeed, so rapid is the disintegration and so rich is the soil that one will find plants growing in the crevices of lava that has recently flowed from the crater and is scarcely yet cooled. Nay, more: cocoanut, coffee and pine-apple trees seem to thrive in lava while yet hard. If the plantlet can only find a small crack in which to strike root, it is sure to develop into a healthy shrub or a large tree. Some of the finest cocoanut groves in the islands are on the hard, bare lava shores of the ocean, and the finest pine-apples flourish in localities scarcely less propitious. And the pine-apples one gets here! So large and luscious, and so different from the half-ripe, juiceless things that the markets of our colder climates palm off on an unsuspecting public as pine-apples!

Everywhere on the sides of the mountain, up to a certain altitude, one will see charming white cottages or farm-houses, that remind one of the cheerful country homes of New England. They are occupied by those engaged on sugar plantations, or who are interested in the cattle ranches farther up. One ranch, belonging to the Hawaiian Agricultural Company, which controls most of the sugar

plantations spoken of, and the mill at the Pahala, counts no fewer than seven thousand cattle. These roam up and down the mountain, from timber-line to the shore.

POOR YEAR FOR CATTLE.

But this has been a poor year for cattle in Hawaii. The droughts here have been excessive and long continued. As a consequence, many cattle have died, especially those that frequented the base of the mountain where there was less water to be had than was to be found higher up, where the rainfall is much greater. All along the road might be seen the bleached bones of cattle and horses—bones that were so clean and so white that an osteologist could pick them up and add them to his collection without further preparation.

On reaching the Pahala, I left the car and entered a covered express wagon, drawn by four horses. The only persons in the wagon, besides myself, were the driver—a young Kanaka, named Mao,—and his brother Keeli, who went along presumably to have a ride. In this express wagon we drove some twelve miles, and about noon we hauled up at a "Half-way House," where a very fair lunch was served by a half-caste native woman, who is married to a Norwegian.

After lunch, Mao saddled two mules, one for himself and one for me. These were to carry us the rest of our journey, about twelve miles farther on. Keeli was left at the half-way house, where he remains until our return. Our trail, for a few miles, lay through a light forest of *ohia* and *mamane* trees, with here and there an occasional *kukui*. "Here," said Mao, "is a great place for wild turkeys." These are, it appears, found in great numbers in the mountain forests, as are also partridges, several of which we saw in passing along the trail. There are also numerous wild cattle roaming through the woods—descended from those Vancouver brought to the islands and presented to Kamehameha I, together with numbers of wild hogs and dogs. Lizards are frequently seen, but snakes, as in Ireland, are unknown. Mao said he knew of such things only from some pictures he had seen. The fauna of the islands is very limited, and was much more so before the advent of the white men who imported all the domestic animals now found on the islands. The dog and hog were found here on the arrival of Cook, but were most likely introduced by the Spaniards at an earlier date.

AMERICAN IMPORTATIONS.

Mosquitoes and flies are American importations. They were

unknown here until 1823, when they were brought over in an American vessel; but they are now so numerous that a mosquito bar is as indispensable as it is in Louisiana or Arkansas.

After riding some two or three miles, we emerged from the woodland, and came to the roughest and most difficult part of the trail. One could now begin to appreciate the nature and power of the forces which have so long operated in these islands, and which have given rise to some of the most stupendous volcanic phenomena in the world. Everywhere along our path traces of the action of these mighty forces were most strikingly manifest. We crossed, one after the other, immense rivers of black indurated lava, which told of the various eruptions in the past history of the volcano. Some were quite recent, and their surfaces were yet smooth and splendid; others dated away back to prehistoric times, and plainly discovered their age by their present state of disintegration, and by the clumps of trees that here and there had found a congenial soil on the decomposed rock.

And the strange and fantastic forms that were outlined in these Plutonic floods! In one place were to be seen huge waves that seemed to have been suddenly congealed in their downward impetuous course oceanwards; in another, there were mossy hummocks, that had the appearance of being covered with enormous coils of heavy, black rope. Here, the lava seemed to have been stirred about (by one of Pele's attendant spirits, I trow,) just at the moment of solidification; there, the surface was fretted with the most singular ripples and undulations one could imagine. To the right, one might see masses of the frozen rock that had been contorted into the most fanciful of shapes while it was yet in a viscous state; to the left, one could observe an approach to prismatic forms that betrayed an unsuccessful effort towards the production of regular basaltic columns.

AWFUL STREAMS OF FIRE.

But while recounting the wonders of these awful fire-streams, that in times gone by poured down the declivity of the mountain, and even into the ocean, devastating fertile fields and destroying prosperous villages, I must not forget the noble, faithful animal that enabled me to witness the scenes to which I have referred. Mules are proverbially stubborn and disobliging; but there is an exception to all rules, and my mule is certainly the exception. He was as gentle as a lamb, and seemed to delight in galloping over the road, rough or smooth, and to be pleased that he was able to contribute to my pleasure. From the time I left the "Half-way House" until my arrival here, I never had occasion to touch the

reins. He seemed to follow the trail, which in many places was next to invisible, with the instinct of a bloodhound, and he moved along so gently that I could fancy I was in a rocking-chair, rather than in a saddle. And then he was such a sure-footed animal. He would gallop up and down large deposits of lava, that were of almost a glassy smoothness, and over stretches of rough, angular *a-a* without ever stopping or stumbling, and all this without my urging him with either whip or spur. Your Colorado burros are famous for many things. They are patient, sure-footed and intelligent, especially when feeling their way along the narrow trails of the Rockies, burdened, as I have often seen them, with almost their own weight of ore, or other kinds of freight. But yet much as I admire the Colorado burro, and highly as I esteem his qualities of head and heart, I have a decided preference for the Hawaiian mule. One may travel over all the mountains, and up and down all the *palis*, or precipices in the islands on the back of one of these animals, and feel perfectly secure. The way they instinctively avoid danger, and the manner in which they gather themselves up when on the point of falling, is simply astonishing. Surely it would be a waste of money for a traveler to purchase a life insurance policy as long as he is satisfied to journey on mule-back; for as long as he is content to entrust the safe-keeping of his person to one of their Hawaiian muleships, he may regard danger as something that has no existence.

A GLIMPSE OF THE CRATER.

It was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we reached the summit of Kilauea, and caught the first glimpse of the world-renowned crater. But we were then so tired, after our long ride, that we did not stop to get even a momentary view of it. We wished to reserve the pleasure of viewing and examining the crater until we should have leisure to do so to our satisfaction.

When we reached the top of the volcano my attention was attracted by a peculiar kind of red huckleberry, called by the natives *ohelo*, which is found here in abundance. They look something like a very large red currant, and are rather agreeable to the taste. Indeed, *ohelo* pie is considered by many as quite a luxury.

The large tree ferns or *pulu* ferns, that abound here, likewise deserve notice. They sometimes attain an extraordinary size, reaching to a height of twenty feet, and having fronds eight and ten feet long, with stems three or four inches in diameter. They exhibit a luxuriance and a delicacy of coloring that is simply enchanting. Each plant or tree reveals all the charming shades of green, from the delicate pea-tint, of the tender incurving fronds,

to the darker green of fronds there that are more mature. I have always been an admirer of ferns, but I have never seen any that pleased me as much as those I have found here in Hawaii. If they could be transplanted as they exist here, they could be made the ornament and the pride of the finest conservatories of the world. Indeed, I do not think Flora possesses in her entire kingdom, extensive as it is, anything more truly beautiful than the magnificent tree-ferns that are here the marvel and delight of every lover of Nature.

The "Volcano House," from which I send you this communication, is a fair-sized one-story frame building, and capable of lodging comfortably twenty or thirty persons. The accommodations were an agreeable surprise to me in every way. Nice cosy rooms and a *cuisine* that would compare favorably with that of some of our pretentious American hotels, and a variety and abundance of food sufficient to satisfy even an epicure. One does not expect to find such luxuries in such an out-of-the-way place as this, and when they are placed before one, they are doubly appreciated.

The inn is in charge of Mr. Mabey, an American, who has spent several years in the islands. Like many other foreigners, he has chosen his helpmeet from among the natives. His wife is a most intelligent lady, speaks English fluently, and understands well how to entertain. But hospitality is a marked characteristic of the Hawaiians, and they have the reputation of being the most hospitable people in the world. From what I have seen of them, and from what I know of other people, I am disposed to regard the statement as in nowise exaggerated.

I have said nothing so far of the style of dress of the natives, but while the thought occurs to me, I will briefly refer to the matter. The subject is as *apropos* now as at any other time. The men and boys dress essentially as they do in the United States, and, as a matter of fact, most of their dry goods are imported from San Francisco. The only difference observable is their *penchant* for bandanna handkerchiefs, which they gracefully tie about their necks, or for *leis* or garlands with which they ornament their hats. No matter where you meet a Kanaka you may expect to see him with his *lei* and bandanna. If these are wanting you may conclude that his toilet is incomplete; for these two articles of adornment are as essential to the Hawaiian as the broad-brimmed, silver-decked *sombrero* is to the full-dressed Mexican.

The women and girls, however, have a costume which, in some respects, is quite peculiar; although, when one becomes accustomed to seeing it, it appears quite becoming. It is a kind of "Mother Hubbard," to which the natives give the name *holoku*, and is in universal use, not only by the natives but also by foreigners. It is usually of some gay, flashy color—bright-red, bright-yellow, blue,

green, scarlet, or a combination of these colors. Often, however, it is pure white, and, in the case of silks and other fine fabrics, it is frequently black. It is made either plain or highly adorned with ribbons, laces and embroidery. In either case the *holoku* is a graceful garment, and as becoming to the dusky Hawaiian as is the black lace *mantilla* to the olive-complexioned *senorita* of romantic old Spain.



COSTUMES OF NATIVE WOMEN.

But it is time to say something about the volcano and its surroundings.

SULPHUR DEPOSITS.

The first place I visited was the sulphur banks, near the northern *pali* of the crater. For one who has never seen anything of the kind, they are quite interesting. Here are found large deposits of pure sulphur, to which constant additions are being made by the

arious solfataras which here abound. The specimen-hunter will ere come across some very fine crystals of sulphur, or rather masses of small crystals, but they are so fragile that it is almost impossible to preserve them. One will, however, look in vain for the large, handsome specimens that are to be obtained at the famous sulphur mines of Girgenti, in Sicily. The sulphur deposits here remind me somewhat of the well-known "Sulphur Mountain" of the Yellowstone National Park. The quantity of sulphur, however, that is found in the latter place is much greater than that afforded by the deposits of Kilauea.

I was most interested in an extinct crater, about two miles from here, and not far from the edge of the active crater of Kilauea. It is called Kilauea-iki. It is in the form of an inverted cone, is about half a mile across at the top, and 1500 feet in depth. The bottom is covered with shiny black lava, and on the western side, next to the active crater of Kilauea, I noticed several orifices from which lava had recently flowed, and evidently from the lava lakes of the active volcano hard by. The crater of Kilauea-iki is quite symmetrical, and in size and form quite resembles that of the celebrated Mexican volcano, Popocatepetl. The color of the lava, however, in the two craters is quite different. In the latter it is a reddish, or of a brownish-red color; whilst in the former, as in nearly all the craters and volcanic deposits of Hawaii, it is jet black.

On the way to Kilauea-iki I observed a long, deep fissure in the earth, which the guide told me was made during the night of the subsidence of the fire-lakes of Kilauea, last March. In some places it was yards in width; in others, the width was not more than one or two feet. Several similar chasms were formed in the neighborhood of the crater the same night, some larger, others smaller. "It was," said the guide, "a terrible night for us here. There were no fewer than forty-two distinct shocks of earthquake, some of which were particularly severe. We thought the whole volcano would be shaken to pieces."

WONDERS OF THE FIRE-LAKES.

But all that I have yet spoken of is insignificant when compared with the wonders and terrors of the fire-lakes of Kilauea. No mere description can give an idea of them. Pen and pencil are powerless to convey to one an idea of what is to be witnessed by a visit to the reality. It is, without question, the most wonderful and the most stupendous exhibition of its kind in the world. *Ætna*, *Vesuvius*, *Stromboli*, *Jorullo*, are grand and imposing in their way,

but Kilauea eclipses them all. It is by far the largest of active volcanoes, and, in many ways, the most interesting.

The crater, or, to use the technical term, *caldera*, of Kilauea is nine miles in circumference, and its northern brink is only a few rods from the Volcano house. The walls of the *caldera* are from five to six hundred feet in height, are quite precipitous, and in most places unscalable. The descent, however, on the side on which the Volcano house is built, is quite easy, and one may go on horseback clear to the bottom of the *caldera*, until he reaches the edge of the vast lake of rough, black lava that fills up the entire depression. But when the lava is reached one must dismount, and make the rest of his explorations afoot.

Kilauea is called an active volcano, but that does not imply that the entire crater, or *caldera*, is at any one time in a state of eruption. As a matter of fact, only portions of this great area is eruptive, and these portions are constantly shifting position and changing in contour and dimensions. The present seat of activity is now, and even before the recent subsidence was, about three miles from the northern wall or *pali*. And what a tiresome walk these three miles are! I shall never forget it. Over solidified waves of shining, black lava; across deep *crevasses*, the sides of which in some cases are red hot; around huge rock bubbles, which would not bear the weight of a man, Malo, my guide, and myself slowly and carefully wended our way until we reached the center of Kilauea's activity. Here we found wondrous ruins of what had been a few months before. Almost before we could realize it we were on the brink of a vast, yawning abyss, about a half a mile long and a third of a mile wide, that up until the sixth of last March was filled with incandescent lava. During that night the lava suddenly disappeared, leaving nothing but the deep, threatening pit before us. For several weeks this was all that was to be seen of the whilom famous fire-lake of Halemaumau. But shortly before my arrival a deposit of lava began to form near the western end of the chasm, and when I reached this part of the crater I was delighted to find that there was quite a large lake of molten lava, from the center of which several fire-fountains were playing quite vigorously. This fire-lake is now about seven hundred feet long and four hundred feet wide, and is frequently entirely covered with red-hot liquid lava. At night it is a magnificent spectacle indeed. The fire-fountains, which play continually, throw up incandescent lava to a height of from twenty-five to thirty feet, and brilliantly illuminate the thick sulphurous vapors and the clouds above, so that they can be now seen for a distance of thirty, and even forty miles. It is these dense vapors, or the impalpable dust that arises from some volcanoes, that are so often mistaken for smoke, and it is the

bright reflections of the white-hot lava below from the dust and vapors that give to them the appearance of being afire. Such a thing as combustion does not take place, and flame and smoke, in the proper acceptation of the terms, do not exist.

GRAND PYROTECHNICS.

One could never tire witnessing the ceaseless activity of the crater. Everything here is on such a grand scale, and the pyrotechnic displays are so really gorgeous that they have a fascination peculiarly their own.

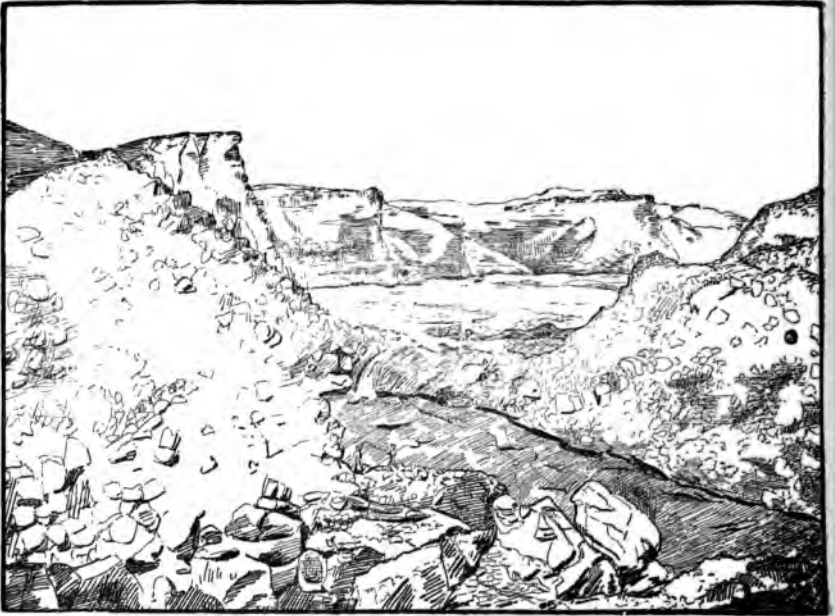
The lava lakes of Kilauea at present are not as large as they were some months ago, but I would rather see the volcano as it is now than have seen it as it was when the lake beds were full. It is in every way more interesting, and one can now form a better idea of the nature and formation of the crater than would otherwise be possible. One can descend to the bottom of the pit, some 500 or 600 feet in depth, and nearly 1000 feet below the top of the wall surrounding the *caldera* proper, and can approach with impunity the very edge of the wondrous lake of fire. When one gets so near such a large body of melted lava, the heat, as can be readily imagined, is quite intense; but one can have time enough to dip the end of his staff into the liquid mass, and draw out enough of it to constitute a souvenir of his visit to Pele's sanctuary. I was fortunate in being able to secure several such specimens, but since they have cooled I find them so fragile that I scarcely know how I will ever get them home. They will require the most careful handling.

What most impresses one in contemplating the wonders of Kilauea is the magnitude of everything about it—the immense *caldera*, the vast lakes of fire, and the enormous quantities of lava that flow therefrom. Vesuvius taken by itself is grand, but is small indeed in comparison with this marvel of the Southern seas. It has been calculated by geologists that during one of the recent eruptions of Kilauea, fully forty times as much lava was poured out of it as was ever ejected from Vesuvius during the greatest of its eruptions.

A SAFE VOLCANO.

And then Kilauea is entirely unlike most other volcanoes. There is nothing explosive about it, as is the case with Vesuvius, *Ætna*, Jorullo, and other well-known volcanoes; no cinders or ashes given off, and there are no accompanying detonations. It belongs to the class called *quiet* volcanoes, as does also its mammoth neighbor, Mauna Loa. Only once in its history has Kilauea been

known to eject ashes and scoriæ, and that was some sixty years ago, during the reign of Kamehameha I. The action of the volcano is limited to the filling up of the crater with molten lava, which eventually either overflows the lip of the crater or escapes through some fissure made in the flank of the mountain. After the crater is thus emptied there is again a period of filling up, which may require many years. Kilauea, however, is remarkable from the fact that there is nearly always present in its crater a larger or smaller



THE MOLTEN LAKE OF HALEMAUMAU.

lake of incandescent lava. Only a few times, and one of these was last March, has its crater been known to be entirely empty, and then there was an absence of lava during only a few weeks.

The eruptions, or rather the overflows, of Mauna Loa occur on an average only once in nine or ten years, but then the phenomena witnessed are on a scale of magnificence that is simply terrible. The lava then rushes out in immense rivers of fire, which frequently extend as far as the sea, forty or fifty miles away. The last eruption occurred in 1881, when the flourishing village of Hilo nar-

rowly escaped destruction. The amount of lava that was then poured out was phenomenally great, and not the least interesting of the many natural features of Hawaii are the congealed lava rivers of '81. The inhabitants here look for another eruption of Mauna Loa in the near future, as they say one always occurs shortly after a subsidence of Kilauea, such as that which took place in March last. As yet there are in the crater of Mauna Loa no evidences of such a forthcoming eruption, but it may become suddenly active, with little or no warning, as it has done frequently on other occasions.

TWIN FIRE MOUNTAINS.

I have spoken thus of Mauna Loa, as it and Kilauea are, properly speaking, one and the same volcano, or, more truly, Mauna Loa has two craters—that of Mokuaweoweo on the summit, about 14,000 feet above sea level, and Kilauea on its southern slope 9500 feet lower down. But the strangest feature about the volcano is that the two craters, although in such close proximity, and having such similarity of action and giving forth the same kind of lava, seem to have no closer connection with each other. On the contrary, they appear to be perfectly independent, especially during periods of eruption. Mokuaweoweo may be violently active and Halemau mau comparatively quiet, or even empty, although the former is over 9000 feet above the latter, and not more than twenty miles distant. It would seem that in this case, at least, both craters should be simultaneously active. But they are not so; and this fact alone gives rise to one of the most difficult problems connected with the study of the volcanoes of Hawaii.

But what, some of your readers may ask, has become of the lava that disappeared from the crater of Kilauea March last? This is a question that has been puzzling every one since the outflow, but is a question to which no answer has yet been given. It may have been drained off into some subterranean cavity, or it may have passed off under the ocean. Either supposition is probable, but in neither case could the course of the lava be followed. Some trace of it may be discovered eventually, but as yet we must remain in total ignorance as to how and whither the transfer was made.

This, however, is only one of the many things of which science is compelled to acknowledge ignorance. We, as yet, know little or nothing about the real nature or cause of volcanoes, and will probably never have much more positive knowledge about them than we have now. Chemists, geologists, physicists, astronomers and mathematicians have their favorite theories about volcanoes, but all of them are open to grave and apparently unanswerable objections.

A GOOD PLACE TO STUDY.

Hawaii is the best place in the world for studying the nature of volcanic action; for, in addition to Kilauea and Mauna Loa, there are the extinct volcanoes of Hualalai, and Mauna Kea which is even higher than Mauna Loa, and only a few miles farther up to the northward. But with all the advantages for investigation here offered to the scientist, the mysteries regarding the nature of volcanoes are as numerous and as inscrutable as ever. Nature still mocks the intruder who would pry into the secrets of her laboratory, and when one fancies he has found a clue to some of her processes, he is soon disabused of his vain notions, and finds that he is as far away from the knowledge sought as ever. But failure should not discourage one. If we cannot find out everything about volcanoes, we can discover something that will be of value, not only in its relation to volcanic action, but also in explaining other phenomena of nature that are equally interesting, and, for the present, just as unintelligible.

I shall ever remember my visit to the crater of Kilauea. It is an event in any one's life to visit such a scene. But there are circumstances that can render such a visit doubly memorable. I reached the crater quite early in the afternoon, and was so taken up in examining various phenomena while there that I did not think of returning until nine o'clock at night. The sky was then covered with heavy, black clouds, and the rain for a while poured down in torrents; but fortunately I had a waterproof with me, and was able to keep dry. The scene at the crater, and for that matter anywhere along the *route* of our long, tiresome tramp back to the "Volcano house," was weird in the extreme. It reminded me of the descriptions given by Dante and Milton of the infernal regions. Indeed, I do not think there is any place in the whole world that more correctly answers to the descriptions given of hell by those great poets than this same mammoth crater of Kilauea. Feeling our way through the rain and gloom over immense lava deposits of the *caldera*, with no light but that of our lanterns and the fitful glare afforded by the sulphurous vapors arising from the crater behind us, I could well recall—

"Your dreary plain, forlorn and wild,
The seat of desolation, void of light,
Save what the glimmering of these livid flames
Casts pale and dreadful."

We were traveling over dangerous ground, but with Malo as guide—and he was the most careful and intelligent guide I have

ever met—I am now happy to record that the trip back to our lodgings was made most successfully. At a late hour we reached the Volcano house, foot-sore and half famished; but our host had a warm and even sumptuous repast awaiting us, and this, together with the comfortable bed that occupies a goodly portion of my little room, contributed wonderfully towards removing all pains and aches, and making “Richard feel himself again.”

To-morrow I leave for Honolulu, whence I hope to be able, sooner or later, to send you a communication regarding the great scourge of these islands, leprosy. Until then, adieu! or, as it is said here in the sweet tongue of Hawaii-nei, *Aloha!*

ST. LOUIS COLLEGE, HONOLULU, H. I., AUG. 6, 1886.

In my last letter I promised to write you about the leprosy and the lepers of these islands, but before doing so I shall give you a brief account of some matters that will, I am sure, possess an equal interest for your readers. The topics I would refer to are naturally suggested by my present surroundings, and I could not now, without doing violence to my own feelings, pass them over in silence. Such topics are—education and religion in Hawaii.

Among a people who are regarded as pagans, barbarians and cannibals, one does not expect to find much of education or religion, and does not look for churches, schools or colleges, and yet, for some unaccountable reason, the majority of people, even among those who should be better informed, are under the impression that the Sandwich Islanders are ignorant savages, and speak of them accordingly. But such an impression is as false as it is unjust.

GENUINE HOSPITALITY.

As stated in a previous letter, the Hawaiians have not been cannibals within historic times, and it is the generally received opinion of those who have investigated the matter that they have never been. They abandoned their idols nearly three-quarters of a century ago, and since then have never returned to them. They are gentle and peaceable, and the most hospitable people that I have ever had the pleasure of visiting. The people of Old Mexico are proverbially hospitable; but for cordial hospitality, and whole-souled generosity, they must yield the palm to the Hawaiians. An Hawaiian makes you feel at home the moment you enter the house, and he experiences a genuine pleasure in dividing with you the last loaf he possesses. Rich or poor, he is always the same—generous

to a fault. If well-to-do, he will treat you like a prince; if poor, he will make you feel that he is glad to have you share his humble lot, how humble soever it may be. He is fond of company and an adept in the art of entertaining, and all this in spite of the fact that he has been imposed on time and again by unscrupulous and rascally foreigners, who have had only the one thought of furthering their own nefarious purposes and regardless of the means necessary for their accomplishment.

THEIR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

But it is the educational status of the Hawaiian Islands that is more surprising than anything else. I have had peculiar facilities for examining into this matter, and I must confess that what I have seen here has gone far beyond my expectations. I knew that the Hawaiians are wont to boast of the number of their schools, and of the thoroughness of their educational system, but I was not prepared to find nearly so much as I have actually seen.

It will, I am sure, astonish most people to learn that the percentage of those in these islands who can read and write is as great as, or probably greater than, that of any other country in the world. According to the late census, fully ninety per cent of the native population is educated. Can the same be said of any other nation? It is questionable. I do not think it can be said of our own country, high as it stands on the educational scale, unless it has wonderfully improved within the last few years. According to the latest available statistics, if my memory is not at fault, the percentage of illiteracy in the United States is twice as great as it is in the Sandwich Islands. The number of illiterates in this little kingdom is not more than ten per cent, whereas in the United States it runs up to twenty. This is rather startling, is it not? Yet, surprising as the statement is, I am convinced that it is substantially true.

I would not, however, have your readers infer from what I have said that one will find here anything at all comparable with the many excellent and noble institutions of learning which are justly the pride and the ornament of our own glorious land. Such an idea would be preposterous. But what I mean to say is—that the percentage of those who can read and write, of those who have studied the more rudimentary courses, is greater here than it is with us.

PROVISION FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

It is not difficult to understand why such should be the case, when one is informed that education here is compulsory. Then,

besides, there is a liberal provision for schools and teachers, there being on an average one teacher for every twenty-five, and one school for every forty pupils in the kingdom. In these schools, as might be expected, only the elementary branches, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and composition are taught; but these receive due attention, and are taught fairly well—sometimes by native, and often by foreign teachers.

Instruction is given both in the English and in the Hawaiian languages. English, however, is more generally used, and the



ST. LOUIS COLLEGE CAMPUS.

greater portion of the younger people speak it with comparative fluency. The older people still cling to the vernacular, and one will meet many of them whose knowledge of English is limited to only a few words.

Under the direction of the Government are both common and select schools. In the latter are taught some of the higher branches of the arts and sciences, and one may meet now and then students who have attained therein tolerable proficiency. Shortly after my

arrival here I had the pleasure of attending the commencement exercises of the Royal School, the pet educational institution of the Government. I was agreeably surprised at the intelligent manner in which each one performed his part. The music, both vocal and instrumental, was quite good, and some of the elocutionary exercises were really excellent.

PRIVATE AND DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Besides the Government schools referred to, there is quite a large number of private institutions of learning, most of which are under the auspices of the various religious denominations. By far the most popular and the best patronized of these institutions are those conducted by the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts, from France, and the Brothers of Mary. The academy of the former here in Honolulu is quite extensive, and the attendance is proportionately large.

All the pupils seem to have marked talent for vocal and instrumental music, as also for drawing, painting, and fancy work. They do well, likewise, in their other studies, but seem to have a preference for the accomplishments just mentioned rather than for more serious and necessary branches. The Sisters named have been here twenty-six years, and are, at present, twenty-three in number. Their mission is an important one, and their benign influence has blessed many an Hawaiian home. They are held in the highest admiration by all classes, irrespective of creed, and their pupils, one and all, are devotedly attached to them.

The Brothers of Mary have schools in Hilo and Wailuku, which are very highly spoken of, but their chief establishment is the college of St. Louis, from which I send you this communication. It is situated in Kamakela—intended, I presume, as a suburb of Honolulu; but it is so close to the city itself that it can, I think, fairly be considered as a part of it. It numbers several fair-sized frame and brick buildings, and the grounds, which are one of the most interesting spots of the capital, comprise several acres.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS.

The college, although conducted by the brothers, belongs to the mission, which is in charge of the fathers of the Sacred Hearts, from Picpus, France, and is under the immediate supervision of the Bishop of the Hawaiian Islands, Mgr. Hermann. In 1883 Brother Bertram and seven companions, three for Wailuku and four for this place, started from Dayton, Ohio, the head of their province

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in the United States, and in due course of time landed in Honolulu. They were warmly welcomed by bishop, priests and people, and entered upon their labors without delay. The first day they had seventy pupils; by the end of the year the number had swollen to 250. The second year they started with 230 and ended with 320. This year—the third—they began with 330 and closed with 380. During a portion of the year they had an attendance of over four hundred, eighty-six of whom were boarders. The greater number were day-scholars, and a certain number half-boarders. The number of brothers at present engaged in the college is fifteen, and three more are shortly expected, to assist in the work consequent on the rapidly increasing number of pupils. The indications now are that the number next year will be much larger than it has ever been before, and preparations are being made for new buildings which, owing to the unexpectedly large attendance of the past year, and which will certainly be greater the ensuing term, are found to be indispensable.

GOVERNMENTAL AID.

In view of the excellent work done by the brothers, the Government has been quite liberal towards the college. It has already granted one subsidy—a very handsome one it was—and has virtually promised another. With the first the directors of the college were able to erect one of their largest buildings; and with the second, should it be forthcoming as it is hoped it will be, they purpose putting up a similar structure for class-rooms, libraries, cabinets, laboratories, etc. This will give St. Louis College quite an imposing appearance, especially as one does not expect to find such a large group of buildings for educational purposes in a country which is supposed to be beyond the limits of civilization.

In the near future the brothers contemplate adding to the college a school for manual training. An institute of this kind is quite a desideratum in these islands, and I have not the least doubt but that it will be productive of the most happy results. The natives are quite ingenious in their way, and could, with proper training, become skillful artisans.

I have seen here an exhibition of their work in linear, architectural and mechanical drawing that was in every way most creditable. And from the taste which many of them evince for machinery, combined with their skill in drawing and sketching, I am disposed to think that they could, had they the ambition to do so, attain to considerable proficiency in the mechanical arts and engineering. I have put in the proviso "had they the ambition to do so," because

the natives are naturally an indolent and listless race, and, with few exceptions, do not seem inclined to specially exert themselves in anything. But the tropical climate, with its invariable temperature the year round, has a most debilitating influence, and even foreigners are more or less affected by it. It is not, therefore, surprising that the natives, for whom nature has provided so bountifully, and who have consequently so little need to work in order to gain a livelihood, should be, as they are, constitutionally inactive and devoid of ambition.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

Even on the college grounds, just in front of the room in which I am now writing, one has a fair sample of this bounteousness of nature, to which I have just referred. The campus is more like a beautiful conservatory than anything else—so rich is it in all kinds of tropical plants and trees, and rare exotics from the temperate zones. Among them are trees laden with the most delicious fruits almost the entire year, and plants and shrubs that are clothed in perpetual bloom. There are stately, royal palms, whose trunks are as smooth and as round as if they had been turned on a lathe, and carrying on their summits mammoth pinnated leaves twenty and thirty feet in length and of proportionate width. The beautiful algaroba, with its graceful leaves; the monkey-pod, the most charming of shade trees; the traveler's palm and fir palms, pepper and eucalyptus trees abound in every part of the premises. Among flowers are magnificent oleanders and fuchsias and geraniums, and morning-glories, which for size and luxuriance eclipse anything of the kind to be seen in the United States, except, perhaps, along the perennially temperate coast of California. The fruit-bearing trees, brought here from almost every part of the tropics—from Mexico, from South America, from the East and West Indies—are even more numerous. Among them are date and cocoa palms—there being no less than five different species of the latter—chirimoyas and mammee apples; mangoes, bananas and pomegranates, and tamarinds, and bread-fruit. And then there are, besides, two other remarkable species of trees: the rose-apple, producing a delicious fruit of the taste and fragrance of the rose; and the alligator-pear, transplanted from the West Indies, and producing a large pear-shaped fruit, weighing a pound and more. The latter fruit has within its rind a yellow pulp, which, when crushed and mixed with salt and pepper, has a taste not unlike that of certain kinds of cheese, and which one soon finds quite palatable.

A BOY'S PARADISE.

I am quite sure it will sound like a fairy tale to the juvenile readers of *The News* to be told that there is such a thing as a college in the world where the boys can have all the tropical fruits they wish by simply climbing the trees and plucking it—and that without leaving their own grounds,—but St. Louis College is just such a place. There is here not only a large variety of the fruits named, but also a great abundance of them—enough, and more than enough, to keep the average small boy in a quasi-ecstatic state during his entire stay at college. Would that I had the wonderful wishing-cap of fable! how soon I should put it on, give to every school in our own fair land just such a garden of Eden as have the boys of St. Louis College. What a wonderful panacea for homesickness such an addition would be! What popular resorts for young Americans would it at once make of all our schools and academies!

Yesterday was the last day of commencement week. The exercises, which were very varied, were most creditable in every way, to teacher and pupil alike, and were largely attended by friends and invited guests.

There were, it is estimated, fully 2000 people present in the spacious exhibition hall and on the adjoining grounds. Among these were the king and his cabinet, many members of the royal family, and the most influential citizens of the capital. The prime minister, the Hon. Walter M. Gibson, was orator of the day, and he spoke in glowing terms, and justly so, of the evidences of thorough work which he had just witnessed. Parents and friends were enthusiastic over the manner in which the boys had acquitted themselves. All the exercises—dramatic, literary and musical—were of a superior order, and I must confess that, at times, while listening to the music and the speaking of these dusky lads of the Pacific, and witnessing such striking evidences of progress, I found it difficult to realize that I was actually in the Sandwich Islands and not in some older and more favored land.

SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS.

A few days ago a large consignment of chemical and physical apparatus was received here from Paris for the scientific department. Chemical and physical apparatus for Hawaiians! Scientific laboratories for Polynesians! Think of it! Verily *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. And what a change in only a few decades! Within the memory of those now living the only instru-

ments—if such I may call them—the natives were acquainted with were rude implements of war and ruder fishing tackle, and now they call for the most improved and the most delicate form of optical, electrical and electro-magnetic apparatus, and these for purposes of scientific investigation! This is no fancy picture. Among the apparatus referred to were many that would make a valuable addition to some of the more pretentious physical cabinets of the United States. A large Ruhmkorff coil, in particular, attracted my attention. A noble instrument it was, of the best Parisian workmanship, and one of which any professor of science might justly be proud. Truly, wonders never cease in this our age of wonders!



FATHER DAMIEN'S CHURCH.

THEIR RELIGION.

The principal religious denominations are the Catholic, Anglican and Congregational. The first named counts the largest number of communicants, and has chapels and churches in all the settlements and towns throughout the kingdom. The Bishop in charge is Rt. Rev. Hermann Koeckemann, a Westphalian, who resides in Honolulu. He is an accomplished scholar and an indefatigable missionary, and, aided by the fathers of the Sacred Hearts, has accomplished

wonders in the cause of religion and education. Both the Bishop and his devoted band of co-workers are held in the highest esteem, and justly so, by all classes. The value of their labors in ameliorating the material, moral and intellectual condition of the natives is fully recognized, and the sentiment that they have deserved well of the country is universal.

I have not spoken of the Chinese, as they are here, with very few exceptions, what they are in our own country—pagans. And as in the United States, so there are here but few women and children among them, although the adult males constitute fully one-fourth of the entire population of the kingdom. Chinatown in Honolulu, as in San Francisco, is the eye-sore of the city. This quarter was entirely destroyed by fire a few months ago, but the owners are as busy as beavers at the work of rebuilding, and, ere long, the last traces of the great conflagration, which involved, it is said, the loss of over a million dollars, will be entirely removed.

THE DREADED LEPROSY.

I come now to speak of a subject referred to in the beginning of this letter, which possesses for every one, more or less, a sad and melancholy interest. I almost shrink from writing about the matter, as it recalls so much of sorrow and of suffering, but as I have promised to do so, I must perforce keep my promise. I refer to the terrible plague of leprosy, and the sufferers from this dread disease—the lepers.

It is now some fifty years, or more, since leprosy was introduced to these islands. Exactly when it was brought here, and by whom, is not definitely known. The Chinese have been blamed for its introduction, but this cannot be said of them with anything like certainty; although it seems to be accepted as a fact that the plague itself came directly from Asia, and most likely from China. Shortly after its introduction the disease began to spread with alarming rapidity, and the Government found it necessary to adopt stringent measures for suppressing the plague. The only effectual means of accomplishing this was to entirely segregate those afflicted with the disease. Accordingly, a tract of about six thousand acres of fertile land on the northern coast of the island of Molokai, and known as Kalawao, was purchased and set apart for a leper settlement. In January, 1866, the settlement was duly opened for the reception of the plague-stricken. The number admitted the first year was 141; in 1873 it had increased to 487. During the last twelve years, however, the average number of lepers actually present in the settlement has rarely ever been below 700. On August 19,

1884, according to the official report, the number of lepers at Kalawao was 841,—512 of which were males, and 329 females. This is the largest number ever on the roll at one time. From January 6, 1866, until November 1, 1885, the total number of lepers taken to Kalawao was 3,101; of these, 2,178 died, and 145 were discharged. The others remained at Kalawao.

HOMES OF THE PLAGUE-STRICKEN.

As I have stated, Kalawao is the name given to a tongue of land on the northern portion of Molokai. This peninsula, or tongue of land, is the seat of two communities, the inhabitants of both of which are mostly lepers. One of these communities is near the western end of the peninsula, and is named from the steamer landing, Kaulapapa; the other is situated towards the eastern extremity and has the same name as the district itself—Kalawao.

There are in Kalawao, using this name for the entire peninsula, about 400 houses, all told. Some of these are very neat, cosy structures of wood, and are surrounded by bright flower gardens shaded by graceful, tropical trees. Most of the houses, both in Kaulapapa and Kalawao, belong to the Government, and are under the control of the Board of Health. There is, however, a number of dwellings, small holdings, which still belong to private individuals, although it is expected that sooner or later these will be purchased by the Government. In this event, the entire district will be for the exclusive use of the lepers.

Besides the lepers, there are at present in Kalawao about one hundred and fifty persons who are not lepers. Some of these hold property; others are there to attend to their leprous friends, and still others are there as employes of the Board of Health.

THE NATION'S WARDS.

The lepers in Kalawao are treated as wards of the nation. They have no rent or taxes to pay, and those who are able to work have small patches of land assigned them which they can cultivate for their own use. Many, who can afford to do so, build their own houses, and live apart from the villages of Kalawao and Kaulapapa. The majority, however, are unable to work, and these live in houses belonging to the Government, in the villages named. All are liberally provided, at the expense of the Government, with clothing and medicine, and receive regularly a generous allowance of rice, beef, mutton, salmon, milk, and other necessities.

Kalawao and Kaulapapa, with their small, white frame houses, look not unlike ordinary country villages in the United States. Among the more conspicuous buildings in these places are the two churches, in charge of the pastor of the leper colony, Father Damien. I may here add in passing that he is not a Jesuit, as many of the papers have represented him to be, but a member of the missionary society that has charge of these islands—viz.: the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, or, as it is more generally called, the Congregation of Picpus.

The facts and figures, however, of the foregoing paragraphs give only an idea of the numbers afflicted with leprosy—and the number is a very large one considering the limited population of the islands, and tell of the appalling death rate of those stricken with it, but they say nothing of the many attendant terrors of the awful scourge. Only an eye-witness can realize what these are, and such a one would prefer to bury in oblivion all recollections of so much misery.

AN INCURABLE DISEASE.

Leprosy is without question the most terrible malady with which poor humanity can be afflicted, and it has been so regarded in every age of the world.

In the first place, leprosy is incurable. Not a single well authenticated instance can be cited of a case that has been successfully treated. The sufferer may be afforded temporary relief, but nothing more can be done for him. Science has made a long and exhaustive study of the subject in all its phases, but with the most unsatisfactory results. The scalpel and the microscope, and all the varied appliances that the pathologist has now at his command, have been used in numerous and varied investigations, but without the slightest advance, apparently, towards anything like positive knowledge regarding the nature and cure of the dread disease. Even now, physicians are not agreed as to whether it is or is not contagious. Some assert positively that it is, and others will maintain just as strongly that it is not. Some will tell you that it is of parasitic origin, and claim to have discovered bacilli and microbes in the tissues of the leprous subject, which, they say, puts the question as to its character beyond doubt. Others discredit these discoveries, or refuse to acknowledge that their presence, even if proven, is conclusive evidence that such parasites are the cause of leprosy, or that the fact of their existence, even if granted, would afford any clue towards a successful treatment of the disorder. In a word, the leper of to-day is no better off than he was in the time of Moses. Nothing more can be done for his malady, and now, as then, he must live and die an outcast from society, dreaded as a plague dur-

ing life, and abandoned in death by all as an object of loathing and disgust.

A few days ago, in company with Father Sylvester, principal of St. Louis college, I visited the Branch Leper Hospital at Kakaato. This is located on the sea-shore, and is about a mile from the business part of Honolulu. Kakaato has been less written about than Kalawao, and for that reason less is known about it by the outside world. But, although less has been said of it, the former place is no less interesting to the visitor than the latter. Kakaato is not as extensive, it is true, as Kalawao, but otherwise there is no essential difference between the two places.

A LEPER HOSPITAL.

The Branch Hospital, as the place at Kakaato is called, is composed in all of about twenty buildings. These are frame structures, and include, besides the schools and buildings devoted to wards, the chapel, the convent of the Sisters, and Kapiolani Home. It is beautifully located on the beach, just inside of a shining white coral reef, and within hearing of the restful booming of the surf that is ever breaking on the shore. There is always a grateful sea-breeze, to fan the inmates of the hospital, and enough of activity and life visible in the distance to prevent one from finding the place isolated—although it is so in fact—or monotonous.

Kakaato was established in 1881, and was first intended as a place of temporary lodging for those who were suspected of being infected with leprosy. In case the disease fully developed itself the patients were transferred to Molokai, otherwise they were discharged. Latterly, however, Kakaato has become as much of an asylum for lepers as Kalawao, and one will find in the former place just as aggravated cases of leprosy as in the latter.

Kakaato is, however, much more fortunate, at least in one respect, than the settlement on Molokai: it is under the care of the Sisters of Charity. No place in the world more needs the attention of such devoted souls, and in no other place could they do more good. The first of their number arrived here in November, 1883, and came on the special invitation of the Government. It had been found impossible to procure elsewhere the sympathetic and skillful nurses so much needed here, and accordingly Father Leonor, vice-provincial, bearing letters from his bishop, was specially commissioned by His Majesty the king to apply to some of the religious communities of the United States for Sisters who would be willing to undertake charge of the lepers of Kakaato. The Sisters of

Charity of St. Francis, of Syracuse, N. Y., nobly volunteered their services, and shortly afterwards were on their way to their mission of self-sacrifice and heroic charity.

THE SISTERS.

The number of Sisters at present in the Branch Hospital is seven. Besides having charge of the hospital for the lepers proper, they



LEPERS' SETTLEMENT.

have also under their immediate supervision a "home" lately erected for young girls, who are the children of leper parents, but who themselves are yet free from the disease. This institution is within the enclosure of Kakaato, and—in honor of Her Majesty, the queen—is called Kapiolani Home. It is a fine, substantial two-story structure, provided with all the comforts and conveniences of a well-ordered dwelling-house.

At the time of my visit there were about a dozen children in the home. They, with the Sister in charge, were engaged in needlework, and seemed to be quite happy. At the request of Fr. Sylvester they sang a number of hymns and songs in Hawaiian and

English, and their singing was really good. They are taught the elementary branches of an education, and instructed in plain sewing and other domestic arts. They seemed pleased to receive a visit from the outside world, as it is something rare for them. I may here add that one cannot visit either Kakaato or Molokai without a special permit from the President of the Board of Health, and this, for obvious reasons, is very difficult to obtain.

I was pleased to note the air of cleanliness that pervaded every part of the hospital. Everything was scrupulously clean, and in its place. But one who knows anything about the Sisters would be more surprised if such were not the case. Flowers and shrubs of all kinds are plentiful everywhere about the premises, and graceful algaroba trees afford a welcome shade to those of the inmates who prefer to remain out in the open air. Mr. Gibson, the Prime Minister, who takes a special interest in Kakaato, has thoughtfully provided the Sisters with a handsome conservatory in which one will find a choice variety of native and foreign flowers. Queen Kapiolani frequently visits the Sisters, and gives them every assistance towards ameliorating the condition of her unfortunate subjects who are here imprisoned, although through no fault of theirs. Indeed, I think it can safely be said that the Government of Hawaii, considering the means at its disposal, has made more and better provision for its leper subjects than any other country in the world where leprosy is still rife. It has done all that could be done to alleviate the misery of the leper, and for its noble efforts it deserves the commendation and the encouragement of all true philanthropists.

CHEERFUL AND CONTENTED.

Before visiting Kakaato, I expected to find the inmates gloomy and despondent. But in this I was agreeably disappointed, as all, even those in the more advanced stages of leprosy, seemed to be quite cheerful and contented. They all had a most hopeful expression, and spoke in terms of unbounded praise of their good nurses—the Sisters. A kind word or an encouraging look from the Sister is sufficient to make a leper happy; kindness here rules, and the Sister Superior told me that she finds the lepers, as a class, the most docile and submissive of people. She has only to make known her wishes when they are at once cheerfully complied with.

A kindly *aloha*—the native word for welcome—greeted us wherever we went. Young and old expressed their pleasure that we had called on them, and tried in their own simple way to entertain us the best they could.

At the time of my visit there were forty-five females and fifty—

five males in the hospital. Frequently the number is much greater. The number received here during the year 1883 ran up to 427. Many of these died, some were discharged, but the majority were transferred to Molokai.

I found nearly all the patients occupied in some way or other. Those who are able to work do so, and for this they receive due compensation. Many of those who are in the first stages of the disease can do certain kinds of work, such as taking care of the grounds and buildings and assisting the helpless, almost as well as those who are in health. Such being the case, it is found, for many reasons, more desirable to keep them occupied than to allow them to remain idle.

Quite a number of the women were engaged in various kinds of needlework, but their favorite pastime seemed to be in making quilts. I was quite astonished to see the beautiful and symmetrical patterns which they had designed, and the tasty way in which they harmonized the various colored pieces which they employed. Again, some of the quilts made apparently after no pattern at all would compare most favorably with some of those much-admired crazy-quilts that one hears so much of in the United States.

A PASSION FOR MUSIC.

Many of the lepers, particularly among the young men and boys, devote more or less time to music, both vocal and instrumental. The Hawaiians, as I have stated in a previous letter, are passionately fond of music. In Kakaato and in Molokai, where they have a brass band, they retain their love for it, and when they are playing or singing they seem to be utterly oblivious of their lot. The boys sang for us several native and English songs, and seemed flattered that they had been requested to do so. They were not at all shy or diffident, and responded to our request unhesitatingly. Poor fellows! how fortunate for them that they could not see themselves as we saw them. The faces of many were horribly swollen, bloated and disfigured when in repose, but the muscular exertion required in singing rendered the expression of their countenances repulsive in the extreme. But the poor boys were unconscious of all this, and it is well for them that they do not know the full measure of their disfigurement. They would then be deprived of the pleasure, slight and fleeting as that may be, which they seem to experience in their attempts to entertain the casual visitor to their abode.

The little leper girls—there is quite a number of them in Kakaato—we found busily engaged with their dolls. Some benevolent person had thoughtfully provided each with one, and the poor chil-

children were occupied in making clothes and ornaments for them, and appeared to enjoy the work—for such it was for them—as much as their more favored sisters in other parts of the world. Besides dolls, the little ones have various other kinds of toys, and I am convinced that in this respect everything possible is done for them to make them forget their miseries and to enable them to enjoy, as much as may be, the short life that is before them.

LEPER TEACHERS.

Besides the school in Kapiolani Home, which is intended for non-leprous girls of leper parents, there are, in Kakaato, two other schools—one for the boys and one for the girls. These are taught by leper teachers, a young man teaching the boys and a young woman the girls. The teacher of the boys took us into his school—a small frame building it was—and showed us everything that was to be seen. He seemed to be proud of his position, and judging from the manner in which his pupils flocked about him, he seemed to be quite popular with them. “I make them mind,” said he, “and they have to study while they are with me.” Some of the little lads seemed quite intelligent, and would, I doubt not, under more propitious circumstances, make pupils of whom any teacher might feel proud.

In addition to the lepers who are able to work and those who attend school, there are others who are in the last stages of their frightful malady, and who are more or less helpless. To see these once is more than enough to gratify the curiosity of those who wish to see a leper simply to know what leprosy is, when it appears in its more malignant forms. Such sights one strives to efface from memory when it is too late; they haunt one for years after, and obtrude themselves on the mind's eye when one could wish them far away, and wish, too, that he had never seen or known anything of the reality they so vividly bring to remembrance.

In its prodromous, or incipient stage, the diagnosis of leprosy is a difficult matter. Only one who has had a long experience in treating the disease can recognize it in its earlier periods of development. Even the expert is often unable to decide with any degree of certainty. Unlike other diseases, which declare themselves in a few days, or weeks at most, the period of incubation of leprosy may embrace months, and even years. But when it is once fully developed, there is no mistaking its true character.

LEPROSY DESCRIBED.

At first the face and the extremities become covered with whitish

blotches, or with dark livid tubercles. The former reveals the presence of spotted, and the latter of nodular or tuberculous leprosy. The tubercles, sooner or later, become large and shining, and more or less indurated. Eventually they break open, and become noisome, suppurating ulcers. About the joints of the hands and feet the ulcerations deepen, and at the same time superinduce a kind of necrosis which causes a gradual dropping off of the fingers and toes. The stumps thus caused sometimes heal over, but frequently remain open and continue to excrete a greater or less amount of sanious fetid matter. The eye-lashes, eye-brows and hairs of the head fall out, and the eyes, ears, lips and nose are also affected. The mucous linings of the mouth, lungs and viscera are attacked, until finally the poor leper becomes a living mass of foul, purulent sores.

And with all this the unfortunate sufferer still lives, and may live for months and years. Of him one can truly say that he dies by inches. Gangrene and necrosis gnaw away the ears, nose and extremities, and frequently leave scarcely anything more of the "human form divine" than an unformed, ulcerated trunk.

The leper, however, is granted one mercy. His pains are by no means as acute, or as long-continued, as his appearance would lead one to believe. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the disease is a peculiar species of anæsthesia that nearly always accompanies it. It is this state of insensibility that renders the condition of the unfortunate leper at all bearable. Only towards the last, when the fell disease is approaching the vitals, does leprosy bring with it any great degree of suffering. But then, the sufferings are often intense and the agony terrible.

CHARITY AND HEROISM.

It is in behalf of such unfortunates that the noble, devoted band of Sisters I have spoken of have abandoned home, kindred and friends, and are prepared, if need be, to sacrifice even life itself. They are always in the midst of danger, and are fully conscious of its imminence. But, like true, valiant soldiers of their Divine Master, as they are, they fear not: like ministering angels, they are ever at the bedsides of the sick and the dying, answering to their wants, and breathing words of consolation and hope. Truly this is charity; this is heroism: something that soars above the cold philanthropy of earth, and something to which suitable recognition, and for which adequate reward, can be given only in a higher and better world.

The Government hopes later on to secure the services of the Sisters for the afflicted colony on Molokai. As yet the poor lepers

there are in the hands of secular nurses. These may have the will to do all they can for the sufferers under their care, but they have not, and cannot have, the sympathetic natures and skill that come only from long training possessed by the Sisters. There is, however, one exception to be made. This is the noble, self-sacrificing priest of the lepers, that martyr of charity whose deeds have only recently become known to the world, Father Damien.

SELF-SACRIFICE.

For thirteen years has Fr. Damien been the guardian angel of the leper settlement of Molokai. During that time he has been untiring in his ministrations in behalf of the sick and dying and in looking after the material and spiritual welfare of his afflicted colony. He has built two churches, one in Kalawao and one in Kaulapapa, of both of which he has charge. Besides this he has established a school for leper children of the settlement, and contributed in many other ways to the amelioration of the condition of both young and old. Occupied as he is day and night, he knows not what it is to have rest or recreation. Besides officiating in his character of priest, he must also do the work of teacher, magistrate, gardener and carpenter, and attend to a thousand and one other duties, because there is no one else to whom he may delegate the work.

Since his advent to Kalawao nearly two thousand of his unfortunate people have died, the death rate at times being particularly great. Of all, or nearly all of these, he had a care during life, and attended to their burial after death. Until last year he mingled among the lepers with impunity, and a special providence seemed to shield him from the infection that everywhere surrounded him. But the ghoulis monster of leprosy has at last claimed him as a victim, and Father Damien's days are now numbered. In a letter written to a friend some months ago, he says: "It is impossible for me to go any more to Honolulu, on account of the leprosy breaking out on me. Microbes have finally settled themselves in my left leg and my ear, and one eye-brow begins to fall. I expect to have my face soon disfigured.

"Having no doubt myself of the true character of my disease, I feel calm, resigned and happier among my people. Almighty God knows what is best for my own sanctification, and with that conviction I say daily a good '*fiat voluntas tua.*'"

A CHRISTIAN HERO.

These words have the ring of the true soldier of the Cross, and betoken the Christian hero that he is. Father Damien is an honor

to our race, and stands forth as a shining exemplar of that charity of the gospel that our selfish and pleasure-loving world is so prone to forget.

But although weak, and daily growing more feeble, Father Damien has not yet ceased to work. He still continues to labor for his people as of yore, and is ever to be found where most good is to be done. All alone, as he is, he cannot give up. There is always so much to be done, and there is no one in the field but himself. He must perforce, then, "tread the wine-press alone," and continue his noble work until he is called to receive the recompense he has so richly earned.

It is but just to add that Father Damien's labors in behalf of the lepers are fully appreciated by every one in the islands. The authorities have unlimited confidence in his judgment in all matters pertaining to the administration of his ill-starred colony, and his counsel is frequently asked, and his suggestions are always acted upon. As a token of the estimation in which he is held, the king has conferred on him the Cross of a Knight Commander of the Order of Kalakaua I. In this connection I may also state that on the occasion of the opening of the "Home for Lepers Girls," last November, his Majesty was pleased to confer on the Mother Superior of the Branch hospital a similar honor, and accordingly decorated her with the insignia of the Royal Order of Kapiolani.

A SERIOUS QUESTION.

Will leprosy ever be entirely eradicated from this sorely smitten little kingdom? Will the work of segregation that has been continued so long and so faithfully, and the great sacrifices made by the nation and by individuals, be effectual in the end and accomplish the object intended and so long and so ardently desired? This is the question that every one asks. It is truly a "consummation devoutly to be wished"; but just now the plague does not seem to show any signs of abatement.

There are those who would fain believe that the worst is over, and others again who will persist that one-half of the native population of the islands is affected, and that it is only a question of time until the disease will so develop itself in this half that those constituting it will be in the same miserable condition as the wretched creatures at Kakaato and Kalawao. The malady has, no doubt, taken a terrible hold of the unfortunate inhabitants; but, notwithstanding all the gloom that prevails, and naturally must prevail, in view of the awful inroads the disease has made and is making in all ranks of society since its advent to these islands, there is still a ray of hope to brighten the prospect, dark as it now appears.

IN OTHER LANDS.

Hawaii is not the only nation that has been similarly afflicted. Other countries are to-day suffering from the same scourge, but not probably to the same extent. But there was a time, in centuries gone by, when the condition of Europe was little, if any, better than is now that of poor, stricken Hawaii. Time was when every country of Europe could count its lepers by thousands, and when every town and burgh was compelled to have its lazaret-house for the isolation of those who had been touched by the disease that knows no healing. What judicious provisions and enforced isolation then effected can be looked for again. The case is not hopeless, although considering the very great drain it entails on the limited resources of the kingdom, it is at times felt to be discouraging. Still, the authorities are determined to continue their present policy of segregation, notwithstanding the enormous expense attending it, and every one who has watched the gallant fight they are making, no less than those who are more interested in the matter, sincerely trusts that their efforts will be finally crowned with success.

But, in this terrible ordeal through which Hawaii is now passing, is there not sounded a note of warning to the people of the United States? It is only a few decades since the Hawaiians as a nation were rejoicing in health and strength such as few other peoples possessed. To-day, and for twenty years past, the nation has been in the iron grasp of the most unrelenting of monsters, for such is the pest called leprosy.

ARE WE SAFE?

Only a few months ago, twelve lepers were taken from the Chinese quarter in San Francisco and quietly put on a steamer and shipped off to China. Two years ago, when on the Pacific coast, I was shown a house in "Chinatown," by one who knew whereof he was speaking, that gave shelter to a dozen or more lepers, whose condition was so bad that the Chinese themselves, as a matter of self-protection, made strenuous efforts to keep the matter quiet; and, as far as the general public was concerned, they were successful. Cases of leprosy have been found among the Chinese in Chicago, and, if reports be true, similar cases have been discovered in other cities farther east. Unless something is done soon to prevent these leprous Mongolians from promiscuously mingling with our people as they do now, the time will come when some of our communities will be in a condition that will render them specially susceptible of the disease, and then the few sporadic cases that we now pay no

heed to will give rise to an inveterate and exterminating epidemic. I do not wish to be considered as an augur of ill, but I do say that the facts in the case should receive more serious attention, and that without delay. Leprosy is yet rife in many places in the East and West Indies, and in Central and South America. It prevails in China and Japan, and in other countries of the Orient. Europe is not yet free from its leper-houses, and it is only by constant watchfulness that the contagion can be prevented from spreading, as in ages gone by. Is there then no reason for apprehension and dread in a land like ours, where the danger is ever imminent, and where nothing is said or done to prevent our people from contamination? We are constantly exposed, and yet, ostrich-like, we persist in shutting our eyes to the danger. The tocsin cannot be sounded too soon. It will be too late when we are obliged to establish a Kalawao in our midst, for on its dull portals will be inscribed in flaming characters: "Leave hope behind all ye who enter here!"

HONOLULU, H. I., AUG. 13, 1886.

The Hawaiian Islands—Hawaii-nei is the official designation here—have been and are still more written about than any other islands, or group of islands, of the great Polynesian archipelago. Besides Cook and Vancouver, the explorers, Kotzebue, Byron, Freycinet, and Wilkes have tarried here, and have given us in their reports the results of their observations regarding the islands and their inhabitants. Numerous scientific expeditions have called here at various times in years gone by, and have published accounts of greater or less length of their visits. Lieutenant Wilkes, of the United States exploring expedition, after having done valuable work in the South Pacific, visited these islands in 1840. Among other things he made several interesting experiments and observations on the summit of Mauna Loa, and in and about the crater of Kilauea. He was, indeed, the first one to make anything like an accurate examination of these wonderful volcanoes. Her Majesty's ship the Challenger called here in 1875. Among the names I noticed as registered in the "visitors' book" at the Volcano house, on Kilauea, were those of the officers and civilian staff of this now celebrated vessel. The name of Prof. "Wyville Thompson, F. R. S., director of the civilian scientific staff," heads the list. The names of some of the party of English scientists who came here in 1874 to observe the transit of Venus are inscribed in the same book. Besides these names, there are those of many others well known in the world of science and letters.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

One of the most interesting and exhaustive works on volcanoes ever written is Captain Dutton's report on the volcanoes of the Hawaiian Islands, published only a few years since. He throws a flood of light on this interesting subject, and has done much to extend our knowledge regarding the nature and modes of action of volcanoes in general. Coan and Brigham have also written interesting accounts of the volcanoes in these islands, but for thoroughness and scientific treatment of the subject they cannot be compared with the masterly work of Captain Dutton.

As to histories and works describing the islands and their inhabitants, they are quite numerous. Among histories those of Dibble and Jarves are the best, that of the latter being most popular. By far the most interesting and complete work, however, is that of Mr. Abraham Fornander, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting here. The work is in three large 8vo. volumes, and entitled: "*An Account of the Polynesian Race: Its Origin and Migrations, and the Ancient History of the Hawaiian People to the Times of Kamehameha I.*" It is in every way a remarkable work, and a most valuable contribution to the history and ethnography of Polynesia. In treating of the traditions and genealogies of the Hawaiians, the learned author shows conclusively that we can trace back, and with certainty, the history of the race for nearly a thousand years. He tells us of an interesting series of movements that took place in the Islands of Polynesia about eight or nine hundred years ago, and of numbers of remarkable voyages that were made from one part to the other of the great Archipelago. For two or three hundred years there was a regular and constant communication between the more important groups of islands, showing that navigation was more advanced then among the natives than at any subsequent period. Voyages made to points distant 2000 miles, or more, were of frequent occurrence, and were so well directed that they were comparatively free from danger.

THE POLYNESIANS.

May we not find in these voyages of the old Polynesian navigators a solution to the long vexed question of the peopling of America? Who knows. There is no doubt about the unity of origin of the Polynesian race, as their languages or dialects abundantly testify. Even to-day an Hawaiian and a New Zealander can readily under-

stand each other, although their respective countries are separated by a distance of upwards of five thousand miles.

Mr. Fornander's discovery about the migrations made centuries ago, from island to island, explains this similarity of language. But if voyages could have been made from one group of islands to another, although far distant from each other,—and Mr. Fornander proves that they were of frequent occurrence,—if the Polynesian seamen of the early period of which I am speaking could safely steer their barks, as they did, from the Friendly and Samoan to the Society and Marquesas Islands, and from all these to the Hawaiian group, there is no reason for supposing that they did not also voyage still farther east, and reach the shores of America. The voyage from Hawaii to the continent of America would not be as long as many of their inter-island trips, and notably some of their voyages from islands in the far West to those in the far East. In the light of Mr. Fornander's investigations, the discovery and settlement of America, at least of the southwestern portion of it, by Polynesians, who came by way of the Hawaiian Islands, is not only possible, but highly probable.

What I wished to say in the beginning of my letter was that, notwithstanding all that has been written about them by explorers, travelers and others, the Hawaiian Islands are comparatively unknown. This may be owing, in a measure, to the character of the works published, many of them being of a kind which would not interest the general reader, and to the fact that many of the books written, although good enough in their way, are either difficult to obtain or are out of print. It is only since the date of the reciprocity treaty with the United States, in 1876, since when quite an extensive trade has sprung up between these islands and the Pacific coast, that our people have begun to take any special interest in this little kingdom of the Pacific. An occasional newspaper article, or, perchance, a contribution to some of the magazines, contain about all the information that has reached the great mass of the reading public.

LOCATION OF THE ISLANDS.

The Hawaiian Islands are about midway between Mexico and China, and Mauna Loa is almost in the same latitude as the great Mexican volcano, Popocatepetl. The islands are on the path of the steamers that sail between the United States and Australia, and all vessels carrying passengers between these two countries call at Honolulu. From San Francisco to Honolulu the distance is in the neighborhood of 2100 miles, and the voyage is usually made in about seven days, sometimes more and sometimes less. A line of

magnificent iron steamers, controlled by Claus Spreckels & Sons, ply between San Francisco and Honolulu, and between San Francisco and Auckland and Sydney, via Honolulu. When once in Honolulu one can visit the various islands of the group in the inter-island steamers, which sail every week and sometimes oftener, and call at the different parts of the kingdom.

The formation of the Hawaiian Islands, as of many other islands of the Pacific Ocean, is volcanic. Here, however, the igneous forces have acted on a much grander scale than in other parts of Oceanica. The upheavals were much greater, and the out-pourings of lava much more extensive. In no other part of the world will one find such lofty massive domes of lava as are to be seen in Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Haleakala.

One can easily trace the progress of volcanic action from Niihau and Kauai in the northwest to Hawaii in the southeast. In all the islands northwest of Hawaii one will find the vestiges of extinct craters. But as one goes north the cones and craters are more worn and less perfect. Their sizes have been so diminished by erosion and denudation, and their forms so changed in some instances, that there remains only a mere outline of what was once a grand and active volcano. In Oahu and in Kauai forests and dense vegetation almost completely conceal all traces of the many craters that in ages gone by vomited forth such quantities of lava as to build up from sea bottom the islands named.

THE WORK OF COUNTLESS AGES.

But although one can readily see that the northwestern islands are the oldest, and observe the gradual progress of volcanic action toward the southeast, one can form no estimate, even geologically, of the countless ages that must have elapsed since the opening of the first fiery vent that gave rise to the formation of Kauai. Reasoning from analogy, and judging from what we now see going on in the remaining active volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Kilauea, the time required must have been long indeed.

Taking into consideration the fact of the gradual movement of the seat of volcanic fires from one extremity of the group to the other, and bearing in mind the further important fact that, of the many scores, probably many hundreds, of volcanoes that have contributed to make up the Hawaiian Islands, only two active ones now remain, it would seem that volcanic action in this part of the world will soon be a thing of the past. It is possible that new vents may be formed under the sea to the south or southeast of Hawaii and eventually give rise to another island, but the indications point

rather to the gradual extinction of those mighty Plutonic forces that in this portion of the Pacific have so long been dominant.

Coral formations obtain here to a certain extent, but the largest reefs are found in the neighborhood of the more northerly islands—an additional proof, as every zoölogist knows, of the greater antiquity of these islands. Off the coast of Oahu, near Honolulu, there is quite an extensive barrier reef, and a portion of it acts as a natural breakwater for the harbor of Honolulu, which stands in high repute among seamen for its size and safety



AVENUE ROYAL PALMS.

There are twelve islands in the Hawaiian group, but only seven of them are inhabited. The remaining five are, more properly speaking, only rocky prominences, or barren islets. The total area of the islands is inconsiderable, and even disappointing when one thinks of it in connection with the high sounding name of kingdom which is given to this group.

EXTENT OF THE KINGDOM.

But the kingdom, for such it is, is much greater in extent than many other governments that claim independence. Even the

smallest inhabited island of the group, Kahoolawe, is greater extent than the principalities of Monaco or Liechtenstein, or the republic of San Marino. Lanai, the third smallest island, counts more square miles than the republic of Andorra, and Hawaii has more territory than Holland proper, or the grand-duchy of Luxemburg. But this is not saying much. The fact remains that the kingdom is of very limited area. The whole of it could be swallowed up by some of your Colorado counties, and there would still be enough land for several big cattle ranches left. Even your Arapahoe county, which is small in comparison with some of its companions, would easily cover the whole of Hawaii, the largest of the group, and several of the smaller islands with it, and if the county were larger by a half it would more than cover every rood in the kingdom. In a word, the total area of the Hawaiian Islands is only a little over six thousand five hundred square miles.

But although the actual amount of land is so limited in area, its distribution in the ocean makes the distances from island to island and from one extreme of the kingdom to the other quite considerable. Thus, from the northwest point of Kauai to the southeast point of Hawaii, the distance is not far from four hundred miles. One of your counties, as stated, would embrace as much territory as all the islands combined; but, scattered as they are, they could scarcely find room, occupying their present relative positions, within the confines of the great Centennial state. If the islands were lifted up from their ocean bed and transferred to Colorado, and placed in the same relative positions in latitude and longitude as they now have, the principal islands, Maui, Hawaii, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai, would cover in the order named the sites now occupied by El Moro, Pueblo, Salida, Leadville and Glenwood Springs. The smaller islands would find place to the south and west of the point designated.

AMBITIOUS SCHEMES.

There has of late been considerable talk among a few Utopians here about annexing to the Hawaiian kingdom some of the other island groups of the West and South Pacific, with a view of forming a grand Polynesian monarchy. Those who favor the idea maintain that the inhabitants of the Marquesas, Society, Friendly, Samoan and neighboring Islands are so closely united by ties of race, language, customs and traditions that they should all be under the same ruler. There is more or less of truth in this view, but the islands are so far separated from each other that it would be practically impossible for such a small kingdom, with the limited revenue that it would have, to carry on the affairs of the govern-

ment, even if the unification spoken of were to be effected. For this and other reasons, therefore, "United Polynesia" will probably never be anything more than a day-dream—a fancy fostered by only the few.

The history of the islands reads like a romance. Indeed no country is richer in materials for romance and poetry than Hawaii-*nei*. There are traditions and legends and songs without number that would afford an unlimited choice of subjects to the poet or novelist. There still live in the minds and affections of the race heroes and demi-gods, around whom are gathered memories of deeds of valor and feats of adventure that are not unlike those that characterize the heroic ages of Greece and Rome.

Chief among these heroes is Kamehameha I., the connecting link between the historic and traditionary period in Hawaiian annals. A high chief, or *alii*—a mere stripling at the time of Cook's visit, the friend of Vancouver, there were united in him all the physical strength and all the daring and nobility of character with which we are wont to endow the ideal savage chieftain.

FOUNDER OF A DYNASTY.

Before his time the various islands, and even different sections of the larger islands, were under the rule and constituted the personal property of so many independent chiefs or *allies*. His is the glory of uniting them all under one rule, and of founding a dynasty—that of the Kamehamehas—which continued in power until 1872, when, in the death of Lunalilo, the line of Kamehameha became extinct.

An interesting Hawaiian romance, entitled "Kamehameha, the Conquering King," has lately been published in the United States, and in this the author, Mr. C. M. Newell, who, by the way, has written other stories of Hawaii-*nei*, gives an admirable picture of the grand old savage as cherished in the memories of his people. Those who wish a vivid portrayal of Hawaiian life, as it might have been seen at the beginning of the present century, will find this book a most charming work.

Kamehameha I. has often been called "The Napoleon of the Pacific." In many respects the epithet is an appropriate one. He was a born commander, and had in him all the elements of a great statesman. He was a wonderful judge of character, and, like the great Corsican, knew perfectly how to select the men that would best serve his purposes. He brought order out of chaos, and laid the foundations of a government that would have done credit to the ruler of a civilization far more advanced. Had he had the advantages of education and association, and had he been placed in a different field in which his wonderful genius for commanding and governing

could have had full play, he would have achieved for himself name and a fame that would have ranked him with the greatest sovereigns and the great warriors of the world's history.

THE NATION'S HERO.

One of the "lions" of the capital is a statue of heroic size, erected to the memory of the Conqueror. Spear in hand, and decked with his *mamo* or war-cloak, he stands the personification of power and courage, and is a fit type of an ideal hero of the Homeric age. It is scarcely a century since he matured his plans of conquest. In a few short years he successfully brought about the federation of the score or more of barbaric tribes that held possession of the islands. To-day his monument fittingly guards the approaches to the legislative halls of the nation—a nation which, thanks to Kamehameha, more than any one else, is now recognized among the independent governments of the earth, and which, for this reason, is a grander monument to his greatness and sagacity than any figure graven in marble or cast in bronze.

Until 1840 all power was centered in the king, and he ruled as an autocrat. In 1840, however, a constitution, restricting the powers of the crown, was promulgated by Kamehameha III. This was superseded by the constitution of 1852, which, in 1864, during the reign of Kamehameha V., gave place to the one which is now in force.

The form of government that at present exists in the islands is constitutional hereditary monarchy. It is governed by the three estates of king, nobles, and representatives chosen by the people. The constitution is largely modeled after that of the United States and the proceedings in the courts of justice and in the halls of legislation are but slightly different from those which obtain in our own country. This follows naturally from the fact that those who were chiefly instrumental in framing the laws, and in drawing up the constitution, were either Americans or of American descent.

THE PRESENT RULER.

The present king, Kalakaua, descended from a high chief, *alii*, is a man of parts, and of no mean administrative ability. He was always surrounded with faithful and disinterested advisers and men who would zealously work with him for the advancement of the nation's weal, he would, no doubt, distinguish himself as a ruler.

He has visited the United States three different times, and has traveled extensively in other lands. In 1876 he went to Washington to secure the passage of the reciprocity treaty, and in this he was successful, to the great advantage of the commerce of the kingdom. Later on he made a tour of the world, and everywhere he was received with honor and treated with distinguished consideration. He speaks English fluently, and in his own language he is regarded as quite an orator. He is a man of commanding presence, and when younger—he is now fifty—he must have been quite handsome.

He is fond of amusement, and, like most of his countrymen, he is disposed to take life easy. Like the Prince of Wales, he is the patron of boating, yachting and jockey clubs and agricultural societies, of many of which he is either the honorary or acting president. His chief advisers are foreigners, most of whom are Americans. Indeed most of the more prominent officials of the kingdom, whether of the legislature or judiciary, are Americans, native-born or by descent. No one, however, can hold office under the Government without becoming a naturalized citizen, and many have accordingly taken out their papers, and enjoy all the rights and privileges of Hawaiian citizenship.

Queen Kapiolani is spoken of by all as a lady of great amiability, and one who, in a quiet way, takes a marked interest in everything that concerns the welfare of her people. Her devotion to her afflicted subjects at Kakaato and Kalawao is well known, and she never wearies in encouraging and assisting the Sisters and others who have these unfortunates in charge.

THE ROYAL RESIDENCE.

Their Majesties live in a large and handsome structure in the heart of the capital, known as Iolani Palace. The building is in striking contrast with the grass hut occupied by their great predecessor, the Conqueror. No less striking is the present appearance of the miniature royal army, neatly uniformed and drawn up before the palace, as compared with Kamehameha's warrior bands, whose only covering was a simple *malo*.

The independence of the nation was recognized by Great Britain and France in 1843, and in the following year by the United States. Since then it has occupied an acknowledged position among the sovereign states of the world. It has diplomatic and consular representatives in the chief countries of the Old and New Worlds, and various foreign powers are represented here by their regularly accredited agents.

There are here, as in most countries, two political parties. They are known as the "Missionary party" and the "Anti-Missionary party." The former is composed in a great measure of the descendants and friends and sympathizers of the early New England missionaries, and are supposed to be the party of reform and governmental righteousness. The latter is presumed by the former to hold principles that are radically wrong, and we have here consequently the same fault-finding, and the same acrimonious criticism of the policy of the party in power, that seems to serve politicians as a pastime the world over.

THE "INS" AND THE "OUTS."

Nominally, there are two parties here. To an outsider, however, as a disinterested spectator, there appears to be no further *raison d'être* for their existence than that proclaimed by the ingenuous Texas politician, viz., "the spoils." There is no great issue at stake and no special difference of policy. The political parties here remind me much of those of Mexico, where for years past there has been no more real issue in the administration of government affairs than in Hawaii. "Ins" and "Outs" would be the proper names of the political parties in both countries.

Like other countries of the world the Hawaiian kingdom rejoices in the luxury of a national debt—a debt which the "Outs" insist should be diminished, but which when they become "Ins" they always manage to increase. The bonded debt now is something over a million of dollars, and negotiations are pending for the loan of another million or two. Considering the limited revenue of the Government, and the diminutive size of the kingdom, one can readily see that the debt already contracted has assumed very shapely proportions.

The chief industries of the islands are the cultivation of sugarcane and rice and the manufacture of unrefined sugar. The refining is done in San Francisco. The soil of the disintegrated lava seems to be especially adapted for the raising of cane, and the yield per acre is sometimes almost incredible. Two or three tons of sugar per acre is the result of a fair crop, but cases are cited in which the yield has run up as high as nine tons per acre.

CHIEF PRODUCTS.

The larger number, and the more valuable, sugar plantations are owned and controlled by foreigners, most of whom are Americans. The sugar king of the islands, as is well known, is Claus Spreckels, of San Francisco. But although his usual place of residence is in

San Francisco, where he has one of the largest sugar refineries in the world, he has a magnificent mansion in Honolulu, where he spends at least a few months of the year, while looking after his great interests here in plantations, steamships, banks, etc. The amount of sugar he made this last season, on his own plantations, footed up the high figure of 14,000 tons. Quite an large quantity of sugar for one man to manufacture, is it not? The total amount produced in the islands this year will probably run up to six or seven times the quantity indicated by this figure.

The reciprocity treaty, which permits the importation of sugar into the United States free of duty, has tended materially to develop the sugar interests of the islands. Now, however, that the term of the treaty has expired and the matter stands in abeyance, the sugar industry is not as brisk as it might be if there were any certainty as to the renewal of the treaty on the same basis as existed heretofore. For the sake of assisting this struggling little kingdom, one could wish to see its chief industry fostered and encouraged, and every one, I think, who fully understands the situation, will join in the hope that Congress will appreciate the advisability of continuing free trade with the Hawaiian Islands in regard to the staple products of the kingdom, for on a renewal of the reciprocity treaty the future commercial success of the kingdom will in a great measure depend.

Next to sugar, the greatest portion of which is exported to the United States and Australia, rice is the most important commodity of the islands. Molasses, coffee, hides, sheep, goat and calf skins, fungus, pulu, bananas, paddy, betel leaves, wool and tallow are likewise exported in considerable quantities. The average annual value of the goods exported during the past five years has been about \$8,000,000, as against \$2,000,000 in 1876, when the reciprocity treaty went into operation.

TRADE OF THE ISLANDS.

Most of the goods imported into the islands come from the United States—the greater portion from the Pacific coast. Just now San Francisco is headquarters for supplies for the kingdom, and it would be a serious loss to this enterprising metropolis if any mole-eyed policy on the part of our legislators should allow the rapidly increasing trade with the Hawaiian Islands to be deflected to any other mart.

The number of acres in the group is something over four millions. About one-twentieth of this amount is arable, and the acreage specially adapted for the cultivation of sugar-cane is still less, and yet the greater portion of this land still remains untilled. But

should the trade with the Pacific coast continue to increase as it has since the inauguration of the reciprocity treaty, there is no reason why the Hawaiian Islands should not afford a fine opening for those who wish to cultivate the many rich acres that now lie unproductive.

In passing through the Kona district, the home of the pineapple, it occurred to me that, with proper management, the canning of pineapples could here be made a very lucrative branch of industry. The fruit grows everywhere, and in such abundance, and is so delicious—surpassing in lusciousness any other pineapples I have ever tasted—that I think a fortune is awaiting the one who knows how to avail himself of the treasures that a bounteous nature offers here in such profusion. At present the principal trade in fruits is limited to bananas, cocoanuts and tamarinds, but there is no reason in the world why the industry should not be greatly increased and extended to the numerous other tropical and sub-tropical fruits that grow here in such exuberance.

A HEALTH RESORT.

For the tourist and the invalid I know of no place that offers such a grateful change and such new and varied attractions as the Hawaiian Islands. They have been called, and truly, “the paradise of the Pacific.” Nowhere else can one find a greater wealth or a more gorgeous display of tropical verdure than are to be witnessed in the shady groves and in the charming valleys of Kauai, the “Garden Island” of the group. Nowhere will one find a grander or a more imposing exhibition of the stupendous forces of nature than in the world-renowned volcanoes of Mauna Loa, Kilauea, and Haleakala. Everywhere one finds something to excite his interest and admiration. The “barking sands of Waimea”; the vale of Iao—the Yosemite of the Sandwich Islands; the woods of Puna—the home of the cocoa-palm; the Pali of Nuuanu, the scene of Kamehameha’s crowning victory, that gave him the acknowledged sovereignty of the islands,—are objects and scenes that, for interest, beauty and magnificence stand unrivalled. Even here in the immediate vicinity of Honolulu, and in the city itself, one will find attractions enough to repay all the discomforts of a long voyage. Among these are Waikiki, the fashionable watering-place of the islands; Nuuanu valley, with its delightful drive; Kapiolani park; the avenue of date-palms, as; also, that of royal palms, which, with their perennial display of luxuriant foliage and richer bloom, surpass by far the treasured exotics of the most famed conservatories of the world.

THE CLIMATE.

As a health resort the Hawaiian Islands have long enjoyed an enviable reputation. They combine in a measure all the advantages of the noted health resorts of Colorado, Florida and California. The climate, like that of the Bermudas, is celebrated for its



KAMEHAMEHA I.

equability. The temperature the year round is nearly always the same. The mean annual temperature at sea level is about 75 degrees, and the daily and monthly variations above or below this point are only a few degrees at most. The temperature varies, of course,

with the elevation, and by going up the sides of the mountains one can find any temperature that he may desire. For those who are tired of seeing the mercury bob up and down, as it does in some of our changeable climates, I can confidently recommend the climate of any of the islands here, and can guarantee that they will always find the thermometer in an agreeable state of stable equilibrium.

G. A. Sala has said that Honolulu is a fragment of civilization flung away out into the Pacific Ocean. He might with almost as much truth have said this of the entire kingdom.

All the inventions and luxuries of the age seem to find their way here by the first steamer. Railroads and telephones and electric lights have been brought into requisition wherever required. Newspapers, in the English, Hawaiian, Portuguese and Chinese languages—some weekly, some monthly, and some daily,—keep the people duly informed about affairs domestic and foreign, and it seems now to be only a question of a short time until the Hawaiian Islands are put in direct connection with the rest of the civilized world by cable.

EASY COMMUNICATION.

Regular communication is now kept up between the Hawaiian Islands and other parts of the world by various lines of sailing and steam vessels. Chief among these are the magnificent steamers of the Oceanic Steamship Company, owned by Spreckels & Co., of San Francisco. The two splendid new steel-plate vessels of this line, the *Alameda* and the *Mariposa*, fitted up as they are with incandescent electric lights and provided with all the improvements and luxuries demanded by modern travel, make the voyage from San Francisco and from the Australian colonies to Honolulu both expeditious and enjoyable.

For the readers of *The News*—especially Coloradoans—who wish to see novel and grand and beautiful scenery, and an almost endless variety of it, I cannot imagine a trip that would afford them more satisfaction than one to the Hawaiian Islands. Let them take the Denver and Rio Grande road to Ogden, and get a view of the wonders and glories of the majestic "Rockies"; then they will go *via* the Central Pacific and have a chance of seeing the charming and sublime vistas of the Sierra Nevadas. They will then be prepared for the restful and refreshing ocean voyage that awaits them at San Francisco, and a week later they will be in the full enjoyment of all the delights of a tropical world in the heart of the Pacific. The steamers of the Oceanic line leave San Francisco and Honolulu fortnightly, so that the traveler can regulate his trip according to his time and convenience.

A DOOMED PEOPLE.

I have said the Hawaiian Islands have been called the "Paradise of the Pacific." For climate and natural attractions they are all of this; but there is one melancholy fact, which regards the inhabitants, that casts a gloom over what would otherwise be a veritable garden of Eden. This is the rapid extinction of the native population—an extinction that commenced with the advent of the European. At the time of Captain Cook's visit the native race was roughly numbered at 400,000. This was probably an exaggeration. In 1823 the estimated population, including natives and foreigners, was 142,050. The returns, according to the first census taken in 1832, placed the number, natives and foreigners included, at 130,313. Since then there has been a continued and frightfully rapid decrease until the present time. The last census, in 1884, gave as the entire population only 80,578 souls. Of these, including half-castes, only 44,232 were native Hawaiians. A large proportion of the population is made up of Chinese, who now count about 20,000, and Portuguese, who number nearly 10,000. The remaining portion of the inhabitants—about 10,000 all told—is very cosmopolitan in character. It embraces Americans, Germans, Norwegians, South Sea Islanders, and representatives of France, Great Britain and Japan.

For the native population the above figures show an appalling decrease, and one which, if it continues, will soon terminate in the total extinction of the Hawaiian race. Leprosy and a number of other ravaging diseases that have been introduced by the whites, have decimated their numbers. But, besides disease, other causes, equally, if not more fatal, have been in action, and have continued to hasten the work of death and universal extermination.

DISEASE AND DEATH.

It is the old story over—the weaker before the stronger: the native making way for the stranger. The well-wishers for this little kingdom have all along hoped that the Hawaiians would prove an exception to this rule; that their strong vitality would eventually reassert itself and stay the melancholy decimation that, continued as it has been for nearly a century, has reduced their number to but a small fraction of what it once was. Everywhere throughout the kingdom one finds ruins of homes forsaken and of villages abandoned, and sees fertile districts deserted, because of the sad havoc made by disease and death—the inevitable consequences the world over where a savage, or a semi-civilized, people comes in contact with the white race.

With a few noble exceptions, the whites who first came to these islands were a worthless and a godless set. Conscienceless adventurers and dissolute whalers, desperadoes and refugees from justice from other lands, constituted the majority of the pioneers to this ill-starred group that else might now rejoice in being the "Fortunate Isles" of the Pacific. Unless the course of events take very soon a decided turn for the better, we are already witnesses of the beginning of the end. And, although just now there is little ground for hope, we may still look for better things for these sunny islands that erstwhile were bright in the promise of such a glorious future. God will it!

SOME OF THE CAUSES.

If the rulers of this nation were to have wise and honest counselors, which they have not always had; if their hands were supported by those who should be their aids, but who in reality have been their destroyers; if they were to receive from the white man the example and the encouragement in righteousness that should be given them, the Hawaiian Islands to-day would present, socially and economically, quite a different aspect. Where, however, flattery is substituted for advice, and the wine-glass is proffered in lieu of sage counsel,—and this to the inexperienced ruler of an infant nation, and to one, it may be, who is naturally more prone to intemperance and other evil habits than his older and stronger brother,—we are prepared for the worst, and are only surprised in the present instance that the deluge has not come sooner.

Already, in view of the proximate dying out of the race, the question is being agitated as to what power will, in such an event, come into the possession of the islands. For nearly a century past several of the nations of Europe have had covetous eyes fixed on the group, and have been only waiting for a pretext, or an opportunity, to seize the prize. France, Germany and Great Britain, especially, have long desired to make these islands their own. In 1843, Lord George Paulet, an English naval commander, actually forced the then reigning sovereign, Kamehameha III., to cede him the kingdom, of which he took possession in the name of the queen of Great Britain. A few months subsequently, however, the islands were restored to their rightful ruler.

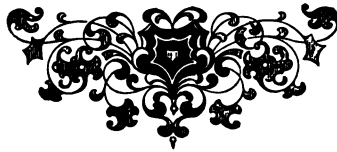
WHO SHALL SUCCEED?

To any power that should wish to control the North Pacific the possession of the Sandwich Islands would be all-important, if not

a necessity. In view of the fact, however, that it has been Americans more than any other people, who have made the islands what they are; that it is to American capital and American enterprise that the present prosperous condition and the commercial standing of the nation is mainly due; that Americans still continue to have the greatest interests vested here, practically controlling, if not actually owning, the kingdom, it is but reasonable to suppose that the United States will, when the time comes, put in her claim for the ownership of the islands, and that "Uncle Sam" will be able to convince all competitors that such claim is the only legitimate one, and the only one that can have a hearing. And in view of my faith in "Uncle Sam's" ability to enforce his rights, if called upon to do so, I think I can safely venture the prediction that the Hawaiian Islands are destined at no distant day to become the prized tropical gardens of the western portion of our great and growing commonwealth.

I have done. The time has come to take leave of the sunny isles in which I have passed so many delightful hours; to say farewell to the kind and hospitable people who have contributed so much to make my visit pleasant and profitable—profitable, because through their kindness I have been able to see and study many features of the islands that otherwise I might have missed. I have never visited a place that I was so loath to leave, but the sad hour of departure has arrived, and leave I must, although, were it possible, I would fain remain longer. Adieu, fair land! Hawaii, farewell! Aloha-nui, Hawaii-nei!

J. A. Z.







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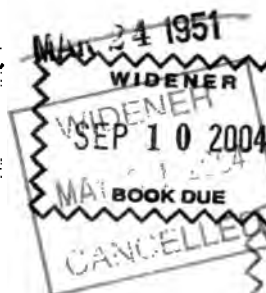
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